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DEATHS.

At Chefoo, on the 5th June, HARRIET, relict of the late W. R. FULLER, Chefoo. (By telegram.)
At the Government Civil Hospital, June 10th, VIOLET ANNIE, second daughter of Edward L. STAINFIELD. Aged 1 year and 10 months.
On the 14th June, at sea, in the steamer *Freja*, aged 69 years, PHOEBE ESTHER, the beloved wife of J. S. BURDON, late Bishop of Victoria, Hongkong.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

News has been received at Shanghai of the death from smallpox of Mr. A. M. C. Raab, acting British Consul at Chinkiang. The deceased gentleman had only been a few days in Chinkiang when he was attacked by the disease, and died on 3rd June.

According to the Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* many of the diplomats from Peking have chosen Peitaiho in preference to the Western Hills this summer, among others the German and Dutch Ministers and representatives from the British, French, and Russian legations. Not a few Shanghai folk are also going.

From a Reuter's telegram we learn that China has leased to Great Britain 200 square miles of territory around Hongkong, including the mainland behind Kowloon to a line joining Mira Bay and Deep Bay, besides the waters of these Bays and the island of Lantau. As yet no official announcement has been made on the subject locally.

According to a Reuter's telegram the concentration of German war ships at Manila is exciting attention, and there are rumours of German designs on the Sulu group.

Mr. Curzon, speaking in the House of Commons, said that according to Mr. Muraviev's despatch, Russia maintains China's sovereign rights at Port Arthur and Talienwan, and respects treaties between China and other countries, thereby implying a scrupulous maintenance of the *status quo*, and that foreign war ships and merchant ships will continue to enjoy access to all ports of China.

The Chinese Government has at last recognised the good work done by the late Mr. Tong King-sing in the founding of the China Merchants' Co. and the opening up of the Tongshan Colliery, among other things. In response to a memorial from H.E. Wang, Viceroy of Chihli, the Imperial assent has been given to the erection of a memorial temple to Tong King-sing at Tongshan, and the sum of Tls. 20,000 is to be paid from the Surplus Fund of the Tongshan or Kaiping Colliery for the building. Besides the above amount sanctioned by the Emperor, the Viceroy Wang himself has set the example to his subordinates in Chihli and elsewhere by subscribing a substantial amount towards the future maintenance of the temple.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following, from the *China Gazette*, does not bear an air of probability:—One of the native papers says that Germany, being dissatisfied with Kiaochau as a naval station and fearing that it will be injured by the proximity of the English and Russian possessions at Weihaiwei, Port Arthur, and Talienwan, has entered into an agreement with Italy to take over portion of the new stronghold. It is proposed that Italy should take over a strip of territory, 100 li in length, along the coast of Kiaochau Bay, from Germany, and the proposal having been communicated to the Tsung-li Yamén, that body has appointed a commission to proceed to Shantung and there determine what the boundaries shall be between the German and Italian possessions.

The *Foochow Echo* publishes a paragraph contradicting certain rumours, which it characterises as ridiculous, which have recently been in circulation with reference to the Mamoi Arsenal, the reported failure of the Chinese to pay the salaries of the French engineers, and the threatened bombardment of the Arsenal by French men-of-war. Not only, says our contemporary, was there never a single day's delay in the payment of the salaries of the French engineers, but all the goods and engines bought in Europe by Monsieur Doyère are also paid for, with the usual punctuality of the Chinese when their word is pledged. As a proof of the cordial good will existing between the Chinese and French authorities of the Arsenal, we may mention that on Friday last a farewell dinner party was given by Monsieur Doyère in honour of H.E. Yu Lo. Friendly toasts were proposed and cordially responded to on both sides, and the party separated on the most amicable terms. Things will surely go on in the same way with the new Tartar General, not for fear of bombardment, but simply because he is in the same disposition as his predecessor, and also because there is a contract signed by China.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Sir Nicholas O'Connor's transfer to Constantinople has aroused some Press notice in the East. I need not remind your readers that Constantinople means promotion from every place except Paris. Sir P. Currie has never been a great success at Pera, but it is not known why he has been replaced. I may state, however, that Sir Nicholas's private correspondence with old friends in China shows that St. Petersburg has agreed with neither himself nor Lady O'Connor. The cold damp has considerably imperilled the health of both, and for this reason alone change to a warmer climate will be very welcome and had indeed become necessary.

The *Penang Gazette* says:—As touching upon the proposed demonetization of the Japanese silver dollar, or yen, in the Straits Settlements, it may be interesting to note that the *N. Y. K. Omi Maru*, which arrived at Hongkong the other day, is reported to have brought 500,000 of that coin from Nagasaki. We presume all these yen are "chopped," in accordance with the practice now in vogue in Japan, which was instituted as a preventive of any re-introduction of yen thither that had already been exchanged for gold at the Japanese Mint, and we also presume the public of the Straits Settlements are aware that, should any "chopped" yen come their way, the coin need not be accepted by them, for it is not current in the colony, as a visit to any Bank will soon convince them. Parties who may attempt to flood the three Settlements and the Protected Native States with "chopped" yen should be forced by the public to "pay through the nose" for the speculation, as, thanks to the Chartered Bank, whose record imports of British dollars we have duly chronicled, there should now be no lack of good and sound current coin in these regions.

H.M.S. *Linnet* arrived at Hongkong from Manila yesterday (Friday). The news she brings is to the effect that the Insurgents are in possession of the entire shore of the Bay as far as Malate. They have successively seized Old Cavite, Bincayon, Bacor, Zapote, Las Pinas, Paranaque, and Pasay, and inland Imus, San Francisco Malabon, Pasig, and a number of lesser towns. They control the provinces of Cavite, Balucan, and Bataan, and can when they wish secure Batangas and Pampanga. They are in possession of nearly the whole of Manila province outside the city. They have taken nearly 3,000 prisoners, nearly half of whom are regulars. The prisoners include two Brigadier Generals, nine other officers above the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and eighty-nine officers of lower rank. They have captured also the waterworks at St. Olan and may cut the pipes leading to the city, but influence is being brought to bear to prevent this. Three Insurgent forces are deployed around the city, one between Malate and Pasay, practically in the outskirts of the town, one to the east, cutting off communication with Laguna, and one to the north, stopping railway communication. It is believed the city could be taken at any time, but it is reported that Admiral Dewey wishes the capture to stand over until the arrival of the American troops, as he does not want to have to police the place with his present forces. The troops are expected within the next six days.

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

At last the extension of the colony's boundaries has been definitely announced, and it is with much satisfaction we are able to state that the fears that have latterly been entertained as to the concession being confined to the occupation of such points as might be required for military purposes prove to have been unfounded. The lease which has been granted carries with it, as far as we have been able to ascertain, full jurisdiction. Some difficulty and delay have been caused in the negotiations by the Customs question, but we understand the arrangement finally come to is that the examining stations are to be transferred to the northern points of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay. As a matter of convenience for the mercantile community no doubt an office or agency of the Customs will still be maintained in Hongkong, for it would involve a great loss of time if a trader every time he wanted to procure a pass or pay money to the Customs had to go personally or send a representative to Mirs Bay or Deep Bay.

The advantages of the new acquisition are immense. It will not only allow of the adequate defence of the colony, but will prove highly advantageous in rendering the colony more self-supporting in the matter of its food supplies and affording room for industrial development, while indirectly it will be of value as another wedge of civilisation driven into the important province of Kwangtung, upon the opening up and development of which it will exercise an important influence. Amongst the minor advantages may be mentioned the circumstance that it will now be feasible to locate the Chinese burial grounds on one of the adjacent islands and do away with the insanitary cemetery on Mount Davis, which has proved an insuperable obstacle to the development of Pokfulam and the Western district.

Many important questions will arise in connection with the administration of the newly acquired territory, which includes in addition to the city of Kowloon a number of more or less populous villages. It may not be considered expedient to at once subject these to all the laws that have gradually during the last fifty-seven years been introduced for the government of the island of Hongkong, but the enforcement of a reasonable measure of sanitation will be imperative, educational facilities will have to be provided, and the whole district will have to be adequately policed. In the matter of public works the first important step will be to open up the district by roads, not necessarily such expensive roads as those to which we are accustomed on the island of Hongkong, but at least bridle paths that will afford access to all parts. A very large increase will be required in the public service of the colony, particularly in the Public Works and Police departments, to provide for all these demands, and to meet the financial strain another loan may be found necessary. With the extension of the area of the colony a fuller application of the principle of local self-government will become more than ever imperative.

Until we are in possession of the full particulars of the concession it is impossible adequately to discuss all the questions above briefly alluded to, but they are after all mere matters of detail. The important point is that the territory in question has become British, and in chronicling that fact it would be a grave omission not to render acknowledgment of the service rendered to

the colony by those who have been mainly responsible for bringing about the beneficent change. First and foremost stands the Hon. C. P. CHATER, who conceived the idea and set the ball rolling by his letter to Governor Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON in 1894. The Chamber of Commerce, the China Association, and the Navy League, especially the last named, have all contributed to the result, and to the officials of those institutions the thanks of the colony are due. The Naval and Military Authorities have done their share in representing the importance of the acquisition from the point of view of Imperial defence, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON has also pressed the matter, and in Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD we have a Minister at Peking who knows well how to uphold and further British interests in China. It now rests mainly with the colony itself to see that the new territory is adequately developed and turned to the best possible use.

THE AUDIENCE QUESTION.

The Audience question, which has been such a frequent subject of discussion for the last twenty-five years, has been advanced another stage by the conditions under which M. PICHON, the French Minister, was received by the Emperor on the 17th May last. When the late Emperor TUNG CHI attained his majority in 1873 the Foreign Ministers deemed the opportunity a favourable one for arranging an audience without the degrading ceremony of prostration, which had hitherto been insisted upon, and which had naturally rendered audiences impossible. An arrangement was after some difficulty arrived at, by which the ceremony of prostration was waived, but an indignity was placed upon the Foreign representatives by the selection of the Hall of Tributary Nations as the place of audience. This provoked much indignation amongst the foreign communities, who were able to appreciate the significance of the insult. Shortly afterwards TUNG CHI died and the question did not actively arise again until the present Emperor attained his majority in March, 1891, but during the interval it continued to be discussed in a more or less desultory way in the press. To the astonishment of the world at large, it was found that, notwithstanding all that had previously transpired, the Ministers had, in 1891, consented to be again received in the Hall of Tributary Nations. There was naturally an outburst of indignation and the Ministers soon repented of their error, but when they requested that for future audiences another hall might be selected they were confronted with the argument that the question had already been fully discussed between the Chinese Government and the foreign representatives and that it was impossible to reverse the decision arrived at. The Ministers, however, would not again go to the Hall of Tributary Nations, and when congratulatory addresses were sent in 1894 by the various sovereigns and states to the Empress Dowager on her sixtieth birthday an audience was arranged in the Hall of Blooming Literature, or Hall of Elegance and Literature as it has since been termed. In the meantime, however, the German, British, and Austrian Ministers had consented to be received in the hall known as the Cheng Kwang Tien, which, although it did not possess the objectionable associations of the Hall of Tributary Nations, was situated in the western gardens and did not form part of the palace proper.

The Ministers were divided amongst themselves on the audience question, and

the decay of British prestige in China, which continued for some years, was in part to be ascribed to the fact that the British representative did not stand out, like the French and Russian Ministers, for an audience under conditions of becoming dignity. The responsibility for the unfortunate arrangements in connection with the 1891 audience rested principally with the German and British Ministers, and they were also responsible for the subsequent use of the Cheng Kwang Tien. It was claimed, indeed, that their consenting to be received there was a breach of a protocol which had been signed by all the Foreign representatives to the effect that they should consent only to a reception in the palace itself; and a rather acrimonious controversy took place on this point. Whatever may have been the real facts in connection with that protocol, however, certain it is that the French and Russian Ministers resolutely declined to be received unless in the Palace itself, and they carried their point, thereby raising the prestige of their respective countries and increasing their influence. The ice having been thus broken, the joint audience of 1894 for the presentation of the congratulatory addresses to the Empress Dowager took place in the Hall of Literature, which is in the Palace proper and a chamber of honorific use. The *Echo de Chine* claims that the credit belonged more to M. GERARD, the late French Minister, than to Count Cassini; and the new French Minister, M. PICHON, in presenting his credentials on the 17th May last, obtained a further improvement in the ceremonial, inasmuch as he ascended the dais and spoke directly to His Majesty instead of remaining at the steps and communicating with the Emperor through one of the Imperial Princes. The Emperor also wore the grand cross of the Legion of Honour, and the circumstances all indicated a desire on the part of His Majesty to emerge from the strict seclusion in which he has hitherto held himself. This was even more marked by the cordiality which characterised the recent reception of Prince Henry of Prussia. While rejoicing in the improvement that has been achieved in the conditions attaching to foreign intercourse with the Chinese Throne, and willingly according credit for that improvement to those to whom the credit is due, it is not without humiliation that we can reflect on the ignominious part played by Great Britain in this question when she was represented at Peking by Sir JOHN WALSHAM and Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR. Happily our shaken prestige has been re-established under the present more vigorous regime.

GREAT BRITAIN AT WEIHAWEI
AND FRANCE AT KWANG-
CHAUWAN.

The hoisting of the Union Jack at Weihaiwei on the 24th May presented in some important particulars a rather striking contrast to a similar ceremony on the 22nd April when the Tricolour was officially hoisted at Kwangchauwan. The French cruiser *Pascal* on that occasion conveyed M. KANH, the French Consul at Hoihow, to the Bay of Kwangchau, when a party of sailors and marines, together with the ship's band, were landed. A flag-staff was erected on an ancient fort, and while the band played and the sailors cheered the flag of the Republic was unfurled to the breeze. A considerable crowd of natives assembled to witness the ceremony out of sheer curiosity, but no native officials either took part in it or gave it the sanction of their presence.

The villagers simply gaped at the doings of the foreigners and probably had but the haziest notion of what was really taking place. It was very different at Weihaiwei. The Chinese and British warships on the 23rd May having first jointly saluted the Japanese transports as they steamed out of port, the band of the *Narcissus* playing the Japanese National Anthem, the Chinese flag was then hoisted and saluted. The next day, however, after formal notice had been given to all the inhabitants, the ceremony of changing occupation was gone through with all due formalities. Two companies of sailors in charge of Commander NAPIER, R.N., with the band, and one company of Chinese sailors from the *Foochi*, were marched to the West Fort, where two temporary flagstuffs had been erected, on one of which the Dragon flag already floated. The sailors were here drawn up in a square facing the flagstuffs, the band being placed between the latter, and there received the Commissioners, namely, Mr. Consul HOPKINS, Captain KING-HALL, of the *Narcissus*, Taotai YEN, and Captain LIEU, of the *Foochi*. Capt. KING-HALL then addressed the company, expressing his pleasure at having the company of the Taotai to witness that free action between two friendly nations, and then read the commission authorising him to take possession of the island of Liukungtau, the town of Weihaiwei, and the mainland in the neighbourhood to the extent and on the terms agreed upon by the respective Governments of Great Britain and China. The declaration was then also read enjoining the inhabitants to continue their occupations and observe the law, and prohibiting any new comer from renting or building dwellings or erections without first obtaining permission from the officer in command. The Taotai then responded, but was so nervous that his observations were inaudible. The British flag was thereupon hoisted to the strains of "God Save the Queen" and saluted by those present. Cheers for the QUEEN and for the Emperor of CHINA were next given, and the assemblage then dispersed.

There are ways of doing these things, and we submit that the proceedings at Weihaiwei were more decorous and more strictly official than the French ceremony at Kwangchauwan. It was perhaps no fault of the French Consul or the Captain of the *Pascal* that no Chinese officials were present at the hoisting of the French flag, but it might have occurred to them that, for the sake of the impression likely to be made on the minds of the natives, it was most desirable that some person representing the Chinese Government should have been there at the formal transfer of the land to the new lessees. No doubt this accounts for a good deal that has occurred since. The Governor-General of Indo-China and the Admiral of the French Squadron recently paid a visit to the newly acquired port in the cruiser *Vauban*, and, according to the *Avenir du Tonkin*, they met with a most chilling reception. "The Chinese Authorities simply 'abstained from all communication with 'the Western barbarians. It was in vain,' adds our Hanoi contemporary, 'that one 'tried to notify them of our arrival; no one 'could be found, for the numerous administrative functions of the Chinese 'mandarins had called them away to a 'distance. Consequently there were no 'official communications, and full licence 'was enjoyed by a crowd of people, who 'acted with the more boldness inasmuch as 'no responsibility rested upon them. Not 'only were the party that landed officially

'ignored, but from a respectful distance 'our sailors were insulted in the Chinese 'language, and it is even said that as the 'boat put off from the shore to return to 'the ship stones were thrown by way of 'adieu.' The failure to obtain the presence of Chinese officials at the hoisting of the French flag no doubt had something to do with this rather contemptuous treatment, but we hardly imagine it was the sole cause. As a matter of fact, the French have, ever since the Franco-Chinese hostilities in 1884-85, been regarded by the Cantonese with profound contempt and dislike. The contempt has been out of all proportion to the causes which are said to have begotten it. Because the French Squadron under the gallant Admiral COURBET failed to render the blockade of Formosa effective, owing to the heavy weather and the insufficiency of the forces at the Admiral's command, and because the attempts of the French to make good their landing at Tamsui failed, many of the Cantonese have formed an opinion that the French cannot fight and could easily be beaten by Chinese troops, all other things being equal. They think, because the Black Flags made a fairly successful stand in one or two instances in Tonkin, that the French were obliged to make peace, whereas the fact is that if the hostilities had been prolonged a little the success of the French arms would have been far more decisive. But whether well or ill founded, the impression produced by the Franco-Chinese struggle was most detrimental to foreign interests and prestige, and especially to that of France. And this feeling undoubtedly lingers among the people of the Two Kwang. They have now scant respect for Frenchmen, and they seem inclined to take the occupation of Kwangchauwan as a sorry jest. They are likely to find it, however, a very grim fact, especially if they provoke the French into harsh measures, which may be necessary to compel them to submit to the rule of the benign republic.

ST. JOHN'S AN OPEN PORT.

A paragraph appeared in the *Peking and Tientsin Times* the other day to the effect that "a report is being circulated that 'China intends opening the Island of 'Chang-chuen, near Canton, as a treaty 'port, to prevent Germany or any other 'Power getting it, and two officials are said 'to have been sent there to survey it.' The island in question is better known as St. John's; it is situated to the south-west of Macao, between that colony and the new French possession of Kwangchau Bay. We are not aware that Germany in her search for a port on the China coast ever cast her eyes on St. John's, which could hardly be made to answer her requirements, as it does not possess any good harbour, but a possible French occupation has been more than once spoken of. In the *Questions Diplomatiques et Coloniales* (a Paris journal) of the 1st May appears an article by CLAUDIUS MADROLLE, a French journalist and explorer who some time ago made a journey through Hainan and Southern China. In the course of his article Mr. MADROLLE says:—"To France is reserved 'the south of China. It is in this region 'that are found the stations necessary to us, 'Kwangchauwan, Hainan, and St. John's. 'The last named group of islands is the best 'known; its position at the mouth of the 'rich valley of the Sikiang, its proximity 'to Hongkong, the good refuge it affords 'on a coast which possesses so few, should 'secure for it consideration, for we are here 'almost in a French country. For many

'years our missionaries have been installed 'there to watch over the tomb of St. 'FRANCIS XAVIER, the first apostle of Asia. 'St. John's has thus become a place of 'pilgrimage much frequented by the 'Portuguese and Chinese and even by 'English Protestant tourists; its climate, 'moreover, makes it one of the sanatoriums 'of Southern Asia. St. John's, the largest 'island of the group, is said to have a 'population of ten thousand fishermen and 'labourers. Chang-chuen, or high country, 'on account of its mountains, which rise to a 'height of five or six hundred metres, is its 'Chinese name, while its neighbour is 'called Hachuen, or low country. The 'third of the group is Mongchow, and there 'are also several islets, and, nearer the 'mainland, Tonka, where there are more 'Christians directed by Frenchmen."

St. John's possesses at present practically no commercial importance, nor is it likely that it will ever become a great emporium such as Hongkong, but as a treaty port it would no doubt develop into the trading centre of a limited district on the mainland. Politically its establishment as a treaty port would be desirable, as it would thus be thrown open to the world at large instead of remaining a possible prey to some Power of exclusive tendencies. From a British point of view this consideration is of importance, and it may turn out that the suggestion to make St. John's a treaty port emanated from the British Minister. Great Britain does not want the islands herself, but she could not regard their acquisition by any other Power with equanimity. M. MADROLLE advances as one of the arguments in favour of their acquisition by France their proximity to Hongkong. France has come near enough to us, however, at Kwangchauwan, and any further acquisitions of territory by her in this neighbourhood would be regarded by Great Britain in much the same light as France would regard any British acquisition in the Gulf of Tonkin.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Judging from the announcement made by the Pacific Cable Company of New York that the surveys for a cable between the coast of California and the Hawaiian Islands have been completed and that arrangements are being made for the establishment of the line within eighteen months, it would seem that the project of a Pacific cable is likely soon to be translated into a fact. If this be the case, how about the proposed "all 'British' cable to connect Canada with Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia as part of a British electric girdle round the expansive waist of the British Empire? The scheme is not dead; in fact, it is very much alive, but it needs some fresh stimulus to induce the British and the Colonial Governments interested to hurry up so that they shall not be forestalled in this great and truly national undertaking. Recent events have again in a most telling manner accentuated the great need—for the better security of British political and commercial interests—of a system of telegraphic communication which shall not be at the mercy of foreign ships or foreign companies. The shore ends of the cables should be landed on British territory, secure alike from foreign observation or attack. This cannot be too strenuously insisted upon. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of keeping open communications both for the sake of preventing surprises and to nip in the bud any attempt to cut the cables, and thus win the first move in the game that may any time be commenced, of which th-

Hispano-American War is now furnishing an object lesson.

The British and Canadian Press have been paying some, but not much, attention to this scheme, and in some of the Australian Colonies it is regarded with favour. Recent events in the Far East have attracted notice to the fact of the virtual amalgamation of the British and Russo-Danish Telegraph Companies, and one writer has urged that this is a special and undesirable anomaly in the Great British naval station of Hongkong. We are not inclined to join in the distrust expressed by this writer, or to entertain any doubt of the good faith of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, but this does not prevent us from feeling deeply impressed with the necessity, from a political point of view, of an all British cable being stretched across the broad Pacific. The occupation of Weihaiwei and the development of British interests in China only emphasizes the necessity for an alternative telegraph line which should not touch at any foreign shore from one side to the other of the great ocean. Hongkong has now direct cable communication with Singapore and India, and this should be supplemented by a line from this Colony, calling at Weihaiwei, communicating with Japan, and then being carried straight to Victoria, V.I., and Vancouver. This enterprise would readily be started by a private company if the British and Canadian Governments would either grant moderate yearly subsidies or subscribe a portion of the capital. The line between Vancouver and Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia would speedily follow, and the entire empire, with its wide-spread sections, would eventually be brought into close contact by telegraph. Such a system of communication—assuredly the first step towards federation—is indeed well worth working for, and it is to be hoped that business men as well as politicians will take the question up *con amore*. If the Empire is to endure it must be thoroughly united; to be united there must be speedy and frequent communication. Time presses in this matter; it is not one of those questions which can stand over for an indefinite period, after the manner of most British officials. If the line be not laid within the next few years by England, another cable will be laid by a Foreign Power, and as for many years to come only one could possibly be made to pay, it is rash indeed to delay a day longer than is needful.

THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. H. W. BRAY is a gentleman who has espoused the cause of the Philippine Insurgents and who may be regarded as an accredited representative of the party. It was he who introduced AGUINALDO to the United States Consul at Singapore and he assisted in the preliminary negotiations leading up to the agreement with Admiral DEWEY. Under these circumstances an importance attaches to what he has to say on the future of the Philippines beyond that of a mere individual expression of opinion. Mr. BRAY has recently contributed a signed article to the *Singapore Free Press*, in reply to one that appeared in the *Spectator* and which was reproduced by our Straits contemporary. The view expressed by him is much the same as that which has been previously expressed in this column, but with this difference, that whereas we suggested self-government for the Philippines under a joint protectorate Mr. BRAY suggests an American protectorate exclusively. "The only possi-

"ble solution of the Philippine question," he says, "is an independent government, under American protection, and this is the policy I recommended General AGUINALDO and his compatriots to accept, and which will no doubt be carried out. Time will show."

Mr. BRAY speaks, however, with the exaggeration of an enthusiast. When he says that Spain, with an army of 35,000 men fully armed, has been able to do nothing against an army of imperfectly organised Philipinos who have never disposed of more than six hundred rifles he conveys an entirely mistaken impression. Spain reconquered the province of Cavite from the Insurgents and had driven AGUINALDO's forces into mountain fastnesses, from which they might have continued to give trouble, it is true, but they were not in possession of any extent of settled country. It was deemed expedient by the Spanish Government, however, to bring the disturbance to an end by granting certain reforms and making pecuniary provision for the Insurgent leaders. Practically the rebellion was suppressed when the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and America put new hope into the hearts of the natives and soon brought them material assistance in the shape of facilities for obtaining arms. How long Spain might have been able to keep the islands had there been no interference from outside it is impossible to say; probably she would have been driven out sooner or later; but in April last the natives seemed as far as ever from having achieved their independence.

It seems unnecessary to speculate on the forces that any other Power would require in order to subdue the Philippines after Spain has been dispossessed, for no Power will wish to make the attempt. Possibly there may be demands for coaling stations, there being already rumours, according to Reuter, of German designs on the Sulu group, but the Philippines as a whole will no doubt be allowed to govern themselves, subject to an American or a joint protectorate, or at least they will be given a chance to show whether they are ripe for self-government. If the people are as enlightened as Mr. BRAY claims, the experiment will no doubt turn out a success, but if it fails America will have to determine whether she will govern the islands as a subject territory herself or hand them over to some other Power or Powers. The recognition of the independence of the islands, if it be found possible, will be the most satisfactory solution of a problem that would otherwise prove a very knotty one. In the meantime it is not likely that America will submit to be robbed of any of her spoils of victory, whether by Germany or any other Power. When the war is ended she may invite a council of the Powers more immediately interested in the future of the Philippines for the amicable adjustment of any claims that may be advanced, but any interference by a third Power at the present time would be calculated to lead to serious complications.

The following paragraph from the *San Francisco Chronicle* may be read with a local application:—There is no doubt that the flushing of sewers with salt water is a good thing for public health. The experience of people living along the sewer line which takes the discharge of the Lurline baths is proof of that, the locality having freed itself of diphtheria since the baths were built. It ought to be an easy matter to pump salt water to elevated points and give the sewers a nightly bath, and it may be an indispensable matter pretty soon, in this year of drought, if the waste of fresh water continues.

A NEW BURIAL GROUND FOR HONGKONG.

Now that the colony is about to be placed in possession of the surrounding islands it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in selecting one of them for burial purposes and closing the present Chinese cemetery on Mount Davis. The desirability of this step was officially recognised eight years ago, during the administration of Sir FRANCIS FLEMING. The carrying into effect of the idea was at that time, however, dependent on the co-operation of the Chinese Government, from whom the use of an island for the purpose would have had to be obtained, and this was then found impossible, or perhaps the matter was not pressed with sufficient vigour at Peking, but at all events the much desired and very necessary change was not made, notwithstanding the Acting Governor's exertions in the matter. Circumstances have now altered, and the colony is free to choose a burial ground where it thinks fit amongst the surrounding islands. If eight years ago the desirability of ceasing to bury our dead on the island of Hongkong was recognised, how much more urgent must the matter appear now, since we have had three epidemics of plague! It is generally believed that plague was present in Hongkong some time before the disease was identified as such, and its victims were no doubt buried in the cemetery at Mount Davis, and without any of the precautions which have since been observed in connection with the burial of plague victims. There is also a possibility that plague cases that have escaped detection may have been buried there since. Under the cemetery regulations it is permitted after the lapse of a certain number of years to reopen the graves and take out the bones of the deceased persons for removal to their native places, and it is not at all unlikely that under the operation of these regulations the graves of persons who have died from plague may be disturbed, at serious risk to the public health. But the danger is not confined to plague cases alone. Sir SPENCER WELLS, in an address from which we quoted when discussing the cemeteries question in 1890, said that the germs of infective diseases are preserved in the earth far below the surface and are brought up full of deadly power by earthworms; and when the ground is disturbed, after many years, the germs are in full and fatal activity. Sir SPENCER WELLS was speaking as an advocate of cremation. In Hongkong we are not yet prepared for the adoption of cremation for the disposal of our dead, but the remarks above quoted are none the less applicable to the argument in favour of removing the cemeteries from Mount Davis, where they are in such close proximity to the town and to what ought to be a favourite residential suburb. The very nature of the soil and the configuration of the ground at Mount Davis render that locality unsuitable for the purposes of a graveyard, and the plague of flies that infests the neighbourhood affords only too convincing evidence of the insanitary conditions existing in connection with it.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 6th June:—"Rough cleaning up of Battery yielded 3,300 oz. amalgam, estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,350 tons." This at a rough average of 37 per cent. gold in amalgam would give approximately 1,121 ounces gold for 1,350 tons stone milled in May, pointing to an estimate of nearly 2,250 ounces gold for the next two-monthly clean-up.—*Free Press*.

SUPREME COURT.

June 13th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE), WITH LIEUTENANT STERLING (H. M. S. "BONAVENTURE") AND CAPTAIN FINCH (S. S. "GAELIC") AS ASSESSORS.

THE "KWANGLEE"—"POWAN" COLLISION.

In this case, which was commenced on Monday, Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Denny) appeared for appellants and Mr. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for respondents, the appellants being the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, owners of the *Kwanglee*, and the respondents the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, owners of the *Powan*.

Mr. Francis said that before actually proceeding with the appeal there was a preliminary matter to which he would with very great respect ask their lordships' attention, and that was with reference to the assessors whom their lordships had appointed to sit on that appeal. In England the assessors were selected from a special list of Trinity Masters—all men of very great age and experience, commonly retired master mariners—but here their lordships had no such list from which to select, and of course were at times in very great difficulties in consequence of the absence from port of a suitable person, or a suitable person not being able to remain in port a sufficient length of time to dispose of the case. Therefore their lordships were undoubtedly empowered to select their assessors and make such appointments as they thought fit. At the same time he would ask their lordships' permission to take an objection to one of the assessors whom their lordships had named, mainly on the ground that he was a junior officer in the naval service to the naval assessors who sat on the hearing of the case in the court below, and he need hardly remind their lordships that in both military and naval courts it was the rule, for the purpose of avoiding the effects of the natural influence which the opinion of the senior officer would have upon the junior, for the junior to cast his vote first. He would submit with all respect to their lordships, and with the greatest respect to one of the assessors whom their lordships had chosen, it was hardly reasonable to place a junior officer—and a very junior officer, if he might be permitted to say so—as assessor in a court of appeal when a senior officer in the same service had sat as assessor in the court below and had already given his opinion on the matter. Both the assessors who assisted in the court below were commanders in the Navy—one in active service, and the other retired. He would also submit with very great respect that the officer selected from the Royal Navy on this occasion was not of a rank which it had been customary to select for such a purpose. He thought that on one occasion a lieutenant in the Royal Navy had served, but he was a senior lieutenant. He submitted that the gentleman to whom he had taken objection could not be expected to have that practical experience and knowledge of seamanship which in England qualified for appointment as a Trinity Master and for a seat as assessor in the Admiralty. He would, therefore, submit with all respect that their lordships should select another assessor or that they should consent to sit with one assessor only.

The Chief Justice, after consulting with his learned colleague, said he regretted Mr. Francis had thought it necessary to raise this question, because of course it was embarrassing to the court and more embarrassing for the person to whom objection had been taken. When the case came before the court on the last occasion the court thought there should be two assessors, and suggested that the parties should agree on these assessors, and in case of disagreement the court would nominate two assessors. The court was informed a few days ago that the parties had failed to come to an agreement with respect to the assessors. That at once showed the difficulty there was in getting impartial and competent assessors

in that court. He might mention that Commander Rogers, of the Royal Navy, was nominated by one of the parties, but the other party objected.

Mr. Francis—That was not so.

The Chief Justice said that at any rate there was no consent. He subsequently remarked that Commander Rogers would have been nominated by that court but for that fact. They tried one or two sources and they failed, and they ultimately asked Captain Finch, of the *Gaelic*, and Lieutenant Sterling, of the *Bonaventure*, to sit with them as assessors. Lieutenant Sterling was junior in rank to the two officers who sat before, but he understood he was in no way under their command. They had no authority over him, and he did not see why he could not exercise an impartial and independent judgment in the matter. They could not admit that a question of that kind required very long years of experience. He saw no reason to interfere with the appointment of Lieutenant Sterling.

Mr. Justice Wise—I concur.

Mr. Francis, having observed, "Your lordships will of course take a note of my objection," said this was an appeal from the two suits one and two, 1898, and consolidated together and heard recently before his lordship the Chief Justice sitting in the Admiralty Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The action arose out of a collision which took place in the harbour of Hongkong. The two steamers concerned were the China Merchants' Company's steamer *Kwanglee* and the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company's steamer *Powan*. The *Kwanglee* at the time the collision occurred was moored at the China Merchants' Wharf at the western extremity of the harbour, and the *Powan* was making the customary voyage as the night boat from Canton to Hongkong. The *Powan*, in coming into or entering the southern fairway in the harbour, came into collision with the *Kwanglee* moored at her wharf, striking her with her starboard bow about 12 feet forward of the stern on the after side and doing very considerable damage to the *Kwanglee*, to the wharf to which the *Kwanglee* was moored, and of course necessarily to herself. Two suits were commenced, one by the *Kwanglee* against the *Powan* and one by the *Powan* against the *Kwanglee*. These two suits were consolidated and taken together—claim, reply, and counter-claim. The decision of the court was that both the *Kwanglee* and the *Powan* were to blame for the collision, and the usual decree followed, directing the assessment of damages by the Registrar of Merchants and directing that each vessel should pay half of the damage done to the other, and each bear and pay her own costs. The notice of motion to appeal was from that portion of the judgment of the court below which found that the *Kwanglee* was in any way to blame for the collision. After reading over the notice, Mr. Francis proceeded to deal with the judgment delivered by the Chief Justice, commenting upon the different findings. He suggested that it would have been better for the court below to have considered in the first instance whether the *Powan* was or was not so managed that she was solely to blame for the collision, whether or not, assuming the *Powan* to be in fault, she could not by the exercise of ordinary care, skill, and diligence have avoided the collision, because if that was the conclusion at which the court had arrived from a consideration of the evidence, it was unnecessary to consider whether the *Kwanglee* was to blame or not.

The Chief Justice—Of course you admit that the court in considering the case of the *Kwanglee* considers it in reference to the facts before it.

Mr. Francis said yes. He was only taking a very trifling objection, which was not an objection on the merits, as it were, but he submitted it might have led to incorrect conclusions when the case was approached from that point, conclusions which would not have been arrived at if the case had been approached and considered from the point of view that a vessel in motion running into a vessel at anchor was *prima facie* to blame. Commenting upon that part of the findings which found fault with the *Kwanglee* for projecting some 30 feet into the southern fairway, Mr. Francis said the fairway was laid down by law

as extending from the Praya outwards to the junk anchorage. Though this was defined as the southern fairway, nevertheless the same Government in the exercise of powers contained in the Building Ordinance of 1889 had authorised the erection of a certain number of piers and wharves running out—one of them nearly 300 feet—into this fairway from its southern boundary. Therefore it was not a question as to whether 30 or 35 feet projected into the fairway, inasmuch as 283 feet—the length of the wharf—projected into the fairway.

Some argument ensued as to whether this point was raised in the court below.

Mr. Francis subsequently continued his opening, and then proceeded to deal with the evidence in the court below.

The hearing had not concluded when the court rose.

14th June.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said the propositions of law for which he contended in this appeal were—first that the *Kwanglee* was not to blame for not carrying a stern light. The second portion was that they said they were not under any obligation to carry a stern light, not being required by regulation so to do as a matter of ordinary care, skill, and seamanship. He thought he was entitled to assume that the judgment in the court below did not proceed against them on that ground, and they were not held to blame in the court below for not, when the *Powan* was within 150 or 160 feet from them and the risk of collision first became apparent to those on watch, having then and there shown a light.

The Chief Justice—I think that is so.

Mr. Francis—I think the view of the court was that we ought to have had under the circumstances stated a fixed stern light.

The Chief Justice—I think it was clear when a collision became evident to the *Kwanglee* there was not time to do anything.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said he understood that the judgment of the court below was that they exhibited a want of ordinary care and skill and seamanship in not carrying a fixed stern light on the stern. Their position with reference to that was that it had always been held that it was not right for any vessel to carry, that was to carry as distinguished from exhibiting permanently, any fixed light not provided for by the regulations. Therefore he submitted it was contrary to known and recognised law for them to have carried such a light.

Mr. Pollock said that with regard to the conduct of the *Kwanglee* in this case, he would point out that it was expressly found by the court below, and it was the opinion of the nautical assessors, that it was a neglect of a seamanlike precaution for the *Kwanglee* not to have a stern light up, and that was a finding of fact. It was also found by the court below, as a finding of fact, and it was a finding with which the nautical assessors who assisted the court agreed, that that neglect of the *Kwanglee* to carry a stern light did contribute to the collision. These two findings were arrived at on the advice of the nautical assessors, after a full consideration of his learned friend's arguments, and after a full consideration of the actual demeanour and conduct of the witnesses in the witness box, and after fully considering the way in which the witnesses in the box had marked the different positions of the vessels upon the chart and upon the plan. He should be able to show the court that the rule was that the court of appeal would not upset the findings of the court below upon a question of fact unless it was absolutely convinced that the finding was erroneous, and that considerable pressure was required to induce the court of appeal to come to the conclusion that any finding of fact by the court below was erroneous.

The hearing was not concluded when the court rose.

15th June.

Mr. Pollock continued his argument, and had not finished when the court rose.

It was stated that Captain Finch would not be able to sit again, as his vessel leaves.

The case is still proceeding.

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

Reuter's telegram of the 10th June contains the welcome announcement that the long desired rectification of the frontiers of the colony, so as to include that bounded on the north by a line from Deep Bay to Mirs Bay and all the surrounding islands, has at last been sanctioned. Now that this important project has really been carried to a successful issue it will be of interest to reproduce the letters of the Hon. C. P. Chater to H.E. the Governor in which it was first advocated, and we accordingly reprint them below:—

Hongkong, 13th November, 1894.

Sir,—At the interview with which you were so good as to favour me on Thursday last, I took the liberty of calling your Excellency's attention to the very limited extent of the Colony's territory on the opposite mainland of China; to the very close proximity of the Chinese boundary line to the harbour and city of Victoria and to the fortifications that defend both; to the very great danger to which in time of war the Colony would, in consequence, be exposed; and to the very great inconveniences we suffer, even in time of peace, and I ventured to suggest for your Excellency's consideration that the present was a most favourable time for obtaining, if possible, a re-adjustment of boundaries and an extension of territory such as would obviate these inconveniences and preclude these dangers in the future. I further suggested that your Excellency might usefully call the attention of the Government in England to our position; to the dangers attendant on it, accentuated as they have been by recent events in China, and to the opportunity now presented of improving that position by negotiations with the Chinese Government. Your Excellency was so good as to approve of what I said and to promise to forward and support any representation I might make to you in writing on the subject, and that you would be glad to have them set forth at length, with the reasons in support. I had discussed the matter about a month previously with the honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary but only in brief, and I now beg to submit for your Excellency's consideration a full statement of the case as it appears to me and of the many reasons that seemed to me to concur in rendering it desirable that an effort should be now made, and a vigorous effort, to enlarge the boundaries of the Colony, not for the sake of territory, but wholly and solely for the sake of its more efficient administration and protection.

First, may I remind your Excellency that if we were to look only at Her Majesty's Letters Patent creating this Colony of Hongkong, dated the 5th April, 1843, our boundaries ought to be considerably more spacious than they are. The boundaries of the Colony of Hongkong and its dependencies are stated to be between 22° 9' and 22° 21' North latitude and 114° 18' and 114° 18' and 114° 6' East longitude. These boundaries, if laid down on the map, would have taken in Lamma Island on the South, and the opposite range of mountains on the North, and would have left both sides of the Lyeemoon in our hands. However that may have been and whatever degree of importance is now to be attached to the wording of the Letters Patent, it is clear that only the Island of Hongkong and the smaller islets in close proximity to its shores were originally taken possession of; until 1860 Stone Cutter's Island and the entire peninsula of Kowloon were Chinese territory. It did not matter much then when the Colony was of little importance and the inhabitants comparatively few and when the troops were armed with the old tower musket and cannon shot was barely a mile. Even when, in 1860, it was thought advisable, first to lease, and then to acquire Kowloon, rifled cannons were in their infancy, ironclads were unknown, and a boundary line at the foot of the opposite hills was thought to be ample for the protection of the city and the harbour. As late as 1878 when the first fortifications were erected for the defence of the island, the Hunghom and North Point batteries were supposed to be sufficiently well placed to keep an enemy's fleet at a safe distance from the city and from the shipping. No one then ever dreamed of seeing a powerful fleet of Chinese ironclads anchored in Kowloon Bay.

What is the position now? Our forts are on

Stonecutter's Island and in the Lyeemoon, and the Chinese boundary line runs through the middle of the Lyeemoon Pass, there, only a quarter of a mile wide, and to within a mile of the Hunghom batteries, and it passes on the other side of Kowloon, between Stonecutter's and the mainland. The waters on the northern side of that line are neutral waters and open to the fleet of any foreign power, to pass in and out or to concentrate an overwhelming force within sight and easy gun-shot of our batteries and magazines. In time of an anticipated war the entrance of a French or Russian fleet through the Lyeemoon into Kowloon Bay, no matter with what intent, could not be opposed or resisted without a breach of the laws of neutrality. Of course, the neutrality of Chinese waters and territories would have under such circumstances to be disregarded, or else, the colony would have to be surrendered to an enemy. In the present contest between Japan and China a Japanese force might lawfully pursue a Chinese squadron through the Lyeemoon Pass and engage them in Kowloon Bay, where every shot that missed the enemy would find a lodgment on British territory. In case of war between England and any foreign power, France, or Russia, or Germany, or the newly arrived Empire of Japan, the officers responsible for the defence of the Colony of Hongkong must, as a matter of absolute necessity, close the whole of the Lyeemoon Pass to the ships of the enemy, from the moment there was any serious danger of war breaking out. They must occupy the hills on the mainland on the other side of the Pass, commanding the Lyeemoon batteries. They must forbid all entrance to Kowloon Bay. They must be prepared to oppose the appearance of troops on the hills behind Kowloon and Stonecutter's and the erection of batteries. They must watch the bays beyond those hills which afford easy means of access for troops and guns. Lamma to the south, Cow-e-chow to the west, and Waglan to the east would have to be occupied or observed. No regard for Chinese neutrality could be allowed to interfere with these absolutely necessary measures of precaution. Would any other power at war with us regard or respect Chinese neutrality, and fail to occupy these points of vantage if we did not? Not one.

Until the other day it was possible for us to suppose and say that the Chinese neutrality would be respected; that China was strong enough to compel proper respect being paid to her territory and to prevent it being used as a base of operations against us. Who will say that today she is able to compel her neutrality to be respected? Chinese naval and military power has crumbled away into ashes. In this her transition state, she has less real power, less real fighting force than she had in 1842.

If the possession of portions of the opposite mainland and complete control of the water approaches of the Colony would be absolutely essential to the security of the Colony against any European foe, how much more necessary against China herself.

China is now at her lowest ebb, but 50 years hence, possibly 20 years hence, judging from the progress Japan has made, China will probably be a powerful nation fully armed and with the skill and knowledge that will enable her to make use of her vast natural strength. If then the boundaries of Hongkong are no more extensive than they are now, where will we be with a Chinese fleet in Kowloon Bay and the hills and islands close round in Chinese possession? At their mercy at any moment.

I pray your Excellency to put the question to your naval and military advisers and ask them what steps they would have to take in the event of a threatened war with China, and what portions of the opposite mainland and which of the neighbouring islands they must take possession of, or control, to make good the defence of this City and harbour and its immense wealth against any enemy. They will tell you, I feel sure, that to the security of this island as a fortress and naval station the possession of Lamma and of all islands on the south and east lying closer to our shore is essential; that the control of both sides of the Lyeemoon and of Kowloon town and bay is absolutely essential; that possession of the opposite range of hills to the north, to their summits, theoretically at least, would be most highly desirable, and that to the west

Great Britain, not China, should control the approaches through the Capsui-moon.

Now is the opportunity to rectify our frontiers in all these points. War is actually raging between Japan and China and no hostile operations can be tolerated within sight of the City. The Lyeemoon must be closed to the fleets of both powers. There is always the possibility of war between England and any European power. That possibility has become so apparent now that preparations are being made to meet it. Those preparations must include measures which will prevent the present neutral waters close round our boundaries, and neutral territory from being utilised against us. The necessity for an adjustment of boundaries is being pressed home. China cannot, as I have before pointed out, reply that she is able, even if willing, to enforce her rights as a neutral and to protect these neutral waters and territories from hostile aggression. The same arguments that prevailed in 1860 must prevail now. We want now only what we wanted then; what is essential to the safety of the colony. What was enough then has become, from the changes in weapons and the alterations in modes of warfare, wholly insufficient now, and we must have more. How much more it is for the naval and military authorities to say, but our boundaries must be so extended that city and harbour are absolutely out of reach of the sight and range of any hostile guns, and that we have complete command of our own waters from all sides.

If the Chinese Government will not willingly yield territory in absolute possession, she may, and must be compelled, to give us the right of perpetual occupation and possession of the needful extent of territory under some such form of engagement as that under which Portugal holds Macao or we hold Cyprus, we undertaking that it shall go back to China in the event of our leaving Hongkong.

I beg of your Excellency to press on the attention of Her Majesty's Government the immense importance from a naval and military point of view of availing ourselves of the opportunity now afforded of rectifying our boundaries. It is a necessity of our continued existence as a fortress and naval station that we should do so. Events might happen at any moment that would compel us to disregard Chinese protests and objections and take possession of points on her territory to prevent an enemy seizing them to our destruction. To have to do so would make an enemy of her. Better obtain what we require and must have by negotiations. There can be no better time than the present. And the time is now or never. However great the success of the Japanese to-day, however tremendous the disgrace and humiliation of China, that Empire is too intrinsically strong, too full of resources, too patient and persevering to remain for any length of time in her present condition. This Japanese war will be followed by a tremendous upheaval and China, twenty years hence, will be another China from to-day. If anything is to be done, it is to be done now. In fact I should like to see His Excellency Major-General Barker in possession of Kowloon and the Lyeemoon to-morrow, as doubtless he would like to be if only military counsels prevailed.

Need I point out to your Excellency the immense advantages to the colony from a purely civil point of view of such an extension of territory as I suggest. The police of the opposite mainland and of the numerous villages that lie along it at all points round the city and harbour would be in our hands, with what benefit to the peace, order, and good government of the colony you best know. The Kowloon gambling hells, pawnshops, and marine store dealers would vanish. The Chinese Customs with all its cruisers, revenue stations, revenue farmers, detectives, and spies would be done away with, and with it the constant possibility and probability of troublesome disputes with the Chinese mandarins and people. Our population would have room to spread; manufactories would find space to plant them; selves with abundant supplies of water. An immense number of the minor industries would take root here. We might become independent of Canton as regards cattle, poultry and vegetables. In every way the colony would benefit, and the increased expenditure, military and civil, would be more than compensated by the increased land revenue and additional safety.

I apologise for the length of my letter. It takes time to condense and abbreviate without loss of force, and I am writing under pressure. I am sending a copy of this letter to His Excellency the Major-General, and send you herewith three copies that you may be able to forward one, if you approve, to the Secretary of State by the out-going mail. I deem the matter of the most vital importance, and the opportunity now or probably never again.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's, most obedient servant.

C. P. CHATER.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor, &c., &c., &c., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 16th September, 1895.

Sir,—In a letter which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency under date the 13th November, 1894, I took the liberty of calling your attention to the very grave dangers to which this Colony must be exposed in time of war, because of the close proximity to the city and harbour of the Chinese boundary line; to the necessity of obtaining, if possible, a rectification of our frontiers, and to the very favourable opportunity that then appeared to exist for pressing the matter upon the attention both of Her Majesty's Government and of the Chinese Government.

May I be permitted to again call your attention to the very great importance of obtaining at a very early date some re-adjustment of the boundaries of the colony, and to point out to you that no more favourable opportunity than the present is ever likely to occur for obtaining the assent of the Government and people of England to a demand on the Chinese Government for a further slight cession of territory in this neighbourhood, and for pressing that demand with effect upon the Court at Peking.

I am re-opening the subject at the special request of my colleagues, the Unofficial Members of Council, and in their names. At a meeting held on Saturday last I laid before them my previous letter of the 13th November last, and after long and careful consideration and debate they were unanimously of opinion that every possible means should be adopted to press on the attention of your Excellency and of the Home Government the immense importance of prompt action, when everything promises so well for the success of any negotiations that may be now taken in hand. The Unofficial Members are most anxious that your Excellency should put yourself in communication with the Colonial Office by wire, and, if it meets with your approval, move the Major-General Commanding to address the War Office at the same time.

The Chamber of Commerce and the newly formed Navy League will, in all probability, address your Excellency at a very early date on this subject, while the Hongkong Branch of the China Association intends to take steps to set in motion the parent Association in London.

I need not now endeavour to press upon your Excellency's attention any arguments in support of the contention that an enlargement of the boundaries of the colony to an extent which would give us possession of the mountain range to the north from the Canton River to Mira Bay and of the islands immediately to the south of Hongkong is absolutely essential to the continued existence of the colony as a fortress and naval depôt. All naval and military authorities recognise the fact. Your Excellency has accepted it as conclusively proved and, if I have understood you aright, Her Majesty's Ministers have not failed to perceive the necessity for action of some kind. The recent proposals in Parliament to increase the docking accommodation for the Royal Navy and to enlarge the naval establishments here have emphasized the position, and it is difficult to understand how any great expenditure on such a project can be sanctioned unless it is intended to take steps to secure to us the possession and control of all points from which the new docks could by any possibility be exposed to hostile fire.

My special object, therefore, in writing to you now is to call your Excellency's attention to, and to ask you to urge upon Her Majesty's Government, the immense importance of taking advantage of the very favourable circumstances

that exist at the present moment for obtaining from the Chinese Government the trifling extension of territory so urgently needed.

The recent war between China and Japan, the results of that war, and the helpless condition to which China have been reduced have compelled the European powers to re-consider their position in regard to that Empire and its people, and to re-open questions set at rest for a time by the Treaties of 1860 or thereabouts. Japan has entirely re-modelled her relations with China. Russia, France and Germany have also been compelled to require modifications in their own favour of previously existing Treaties. France has obtained without difficulty large commercial advantages and important rectifications of frontier. Germany is obtaining concessions at certain ports. England has far graver causes of complaint against China than either France or Germany, and yet, so far, has made no demands for any re-adjustment of relations or for any concessions or compensations. The recent massacre at Kucheng has added one more to the many causes of complaint on the part of the British Government against the Chinese, and the difficulty that is being experienced in getting, not compensation or redress, but the mere punishment of the individual criminals is affording another illustration, if illustration were needed, of the inability of the Chinese Government to comprehend and carry out its treaty obligations. If Great Britain were now to demand an entire revision of existing Treaties, and additional safeguards and guarantees for their faithful performance she would not be exceeding the legitimate requirements of the situation. Surely, a request at this moment for the small territorial augmentation required to round off the boundaries of this Colony and render it reasonably safe from aggression could not be considered unjustifiable or excessive. It is the necessary complement of the original cession of the Island as a safe place of residence, a secure place of deposit for our wares and merchandise, a safe anchorage for our ships. Through force of circumstances and mainly through the vast improvements in military weapons of all kinds the place is no longer safe either in case of trouble with China or with any other power. It has ceased to adequately fulfil the purpose for which it was originally intended. The augmentation now asked for is of precisely the same character and kind as was the cession of the Kowloon peninsula in 1861, and on the same grounds precisely. But even if Great Britain were to demand the cession as a mark of her displeasure at the frequent violations of treaty in the past, and as part amends for the Kucheng massacre and for the insults offered her Commissioner there, she would be wholly within her rights.

Public opinion here, throughout the English communities in the East, and in England, has emphatically negatived the permissibility of the Kucheng massacre being settled for by any payment, however large, by way of compensation for the sufferers and their families. Punishment is demanded; punishment in due course of law of the actual offenders; punishment by removal from office and degradation of the officials responsible for the peace and good order of the city, district and province; punishment inflicted on the Chinese Government and nation for its proved unwillingness to afford adequate protection for foreigners and to enforce the observance by its officers and subjects of treaty rights and obligations. How can the Chinese Government be more effectively punished than by taking from it some portion of its territory? No mere pecuniary punishment will touch it to the quick. Its wealth is enormous and its resources almost inexhaustible; but to have to yield territory will touch its pride and cause it "to lose face" among the nations.

The territory proposed to be taken is so small and so poor that it cannot in any way weaken the Empire as a cession of Yunnan to France would do, or of Formosa to Japan.

I have, therefore, to entreat your Excellency, on behalf of my colleagues, the Unofficial Members of Council, and of myself, to take the promptest measures to bring this matter before Her Majesty's Government and to the notice of Her Majesty's Minister in Peking, and to urge upon both (1) the absolute necessity of obtaining a rectification of frontiers, at least to

the extent indicated, if Hongkong is to continue to be a fortress and naval depôt and a safe harbour for our mercantile marine, and (2) the opportuneness of the time for making the demand, first as a punishment for the many breaches of Treaty the Chinese Government has been guilty of, and secondly in view of the much more valuable concessions granted to other powers.

This brings me to the second of the two subjects on which my colleagues desired me to address you. Need I urge your Excellency to press forward the question of the opening of the West River, so often and so unavailingly pressed upon the attention of Ministers? The violation by the Chinese Government of the clauses of existing treaties on the subject of transit passes in the southern provinces and the destruction, two years ago, of the promising trade springing up from Canton under the protection of these clauses, are amply sufficient justification for this demand; but if any further is wanted the privileges recently granted the French Government in Tonquin and along the southern frontier of China entitle Great Britain, as of right, to corresponding advantages at some other point, as we cannot participate directly in those granted, along the common boundary, to the French. The equivalent, and the only equivalent, of the privileges granted to French trade and commerce would be the complete opening of the West River in its entire length to foreign trade.

The Chamber of Commerce will address your Excellency very speedily upon this question also, and in the name of my colleagues on behalf of the colony generally I have now to pray your Excellency to put yourself in communication by wire with the Ministry in England, to lay before them our representations and desires, and to give the colony the support which your position, your intimate acquaintance with the subjects under consideration, and your great zeal for the promotion of the best interests of the colony will enable you to give.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient humble servant.

C. P. CHATER.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor, &c., &c., &c., Hongkong.

CHINESE OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 16th June.

Jung-lu has been appointed Viceroy of Chihli.

Wang has been ordered to Peking.

The Incumbent of the Board of Revenue has been dismissed from all his offices.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May (Captain-Superintendent) of Police), the Director of Public Works (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby), the Acting Registrar General (Mr. E. W. Brewin), and the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. F. W. Clark), the last-named acting as secretary.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

THE REPORT OF THE INSANITARY PROPERTIES COMMISSION.

The report of the Board on the Insanitary Properties Commission's report was submitted. The PRESIDENT said he thought this had better be considered confidentially.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Excuse me; it has been passed. I thought we had done with it.

The PRESIDENT said he was under the same impression, but the secretary had received a letter from one of the members requesting that it be held over until the next meeting. That being the case he did not see how they could do otherwise.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I thought it was decided to pass the report.

The PRESIDENT—I think it would be much better if we could be unanimous on this report,

and I think if we postpone the moving of the report until the next meeting or until to-day week it would be more advisable.

This suggestion was adopted.

RESIGNATION OF MR. MCCALLUM.

The PRESIDENT said—Before proceeding further I have to announce to the Board that Mr. McCallum returned to the colony on the 12th inst., I regret to say so ill that he had to be transferred to the Civil Hospital. He has since sent in his resignation, as he feels that his health will not admit of his returning to duty. Mr. McCallum first came to the colony in 1879 as apothecary and analyst to the Government Civil Hospital. In 1883 he was transferred to the Sanitary Board as Sanitary Inspector and Secretary with a seat on the Board. In 1887 he had a severe attack of remittant fever—so severe that his life was almost despaired of. On his return he was appointed Sanitary Superintendent and Secretary to the then newly-constituted Board, but without a seat on the Board, which appointment he has held to the present time. Those who knew him in his palmy days can best testify to his untiring energy in furthering the interests of sanitation in this colony, but none can fail to appreciate the excellent work he has done, and I am sure you will all join with me in regretting the unfortunate circumstance that has necessitated his retiring from his post. I am sure you will agree with me in moving. "That this Board desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. McCallum as Secretary of the Board since its formation, a period of over fifteen years, and to express its regret at the unfortunate circumstances that have necessitated his retiring from the post." (Hear, hear.)

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I feel both pleasure and regret in seconding the resolution. Regret that we should lose the services of so efficient a secretary, and pleasure in endorsing the remarks which the President has made concerning Mr. McCallum. There are some who hold that the British empire has been raised to the proud position which it at present holds by the strong arm of the soldiers and sailors, and there are those—and I believe a good many in this colony—who hold Great Britain owes her proud position to the energy and enterprise of her merchants. Without wishing to depreciate from the services of our soldiers, sailors, and merchants, it seems to me easier to conquer with the sword when you are endowed with the courage and daring which are the birth-right of every Englishman; it seems somewhat easier to be industrious and enterprising when the direct result of that industry and enterprise is the lining of your own pockets with silver and gold. I say some of these things seem easier than to labour on as does the civil servant on comparatively small pay, with comparatively little prospect of promotion or honour and glory, and looking forward to little else than the pension which a thrifty Government defers to such an age that few ever live to enjoy it. If any section of the British nation can claim any special share in the work of rearing our empire up to the stupendous position which it now holds it is the civil servants of the empire, who may more justly than any other section claim a special share in such work. And in referring to civil servants I mean not the few brilliant and favoured ones—the Governors, Governors-General, and Viceroys of the empire—but the rank and file of the civil service, whose industry, whose experience, and whose tact and discretion in many cases enable their more gifted and more brilliant colleagues to carry out large administrative successes which without the aid of their experienced and hard-working subordinates they would not be able to do. I think in Mr. McCallum we had a very typical specimen of the rank and file of the civil service. It is men like him who have made the British civil service what it is. I believe it is the finest civil service in the world, and I believe that but for our civil service England would not occupy the position she occupies to-day. Mr. McCallum will derive satisfaction from the resolution which has just been proposed, but I feel sure he will leave these shores with a far higher reward—the highest reward which can be given, and that is the consciousness of duty nobly done. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was passed unanimously.

REPORT ON SPECIAL CLEANSING WORK.

The VICE-PRESIDENT reported as follows:—

Police Office, 3rd June, 1898: "Sir, I beg to report for the information of the Board that the work of supervising the special cleansing and removal of obstructions to light and ventilation in Nos. 5 and 6 health districts under section 25 of the bye-laws made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, for which I was appointed by H. E. the Acting Governor on the recommendation of the Board, and which I took up on the 12th of April, has been completed as far as the cleansing of houses and the removal of such illegal structures as have been reported to me by the house to house visitation parties are concerned. I found both districts in a very creditable state as regards cleanliness. After cleansing such houses as were found to require it I devoted my attention to the removal of illegal structures reported to me by the house to house visitation parties in the districts. I enclose copies of extracts from my notes showing the houses in which illegal structures have been removed. I fear that in a number of houses not visited by me in the two districts there exist illegal cocklofts, etc. I would therefore suggest that a house to house visitation be made by P. C. McVicar, who has been working under me, with a view to discovery of any remaining illegal structures. The inspectors of nuisances in the districts can then take steps to have them removed—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant, F. H. May."

The following minutes were appended:—

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Has the C.S.P. any record as to the number of cocklofts which were illegal and the number of these which were obstructing light and ventilation. I understand that as soon as the districts are declared free from plague the latter may be at once re-erected and the Board has no power to remove them until the districts become again infected.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—With very few exceptions the cocklofts were illegal. They all obstructed light and ventilation. They cannot be re-erected in the vast majority of cases without infringing the law.

A discussion ensued.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Does this mean that there ought to be permission given for the erection of cocklofts?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—No, but these people put them up again as soon as you pull them down.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—There were 15 prosecutions this morning in cases where people had re-erected them after they had been pulled down.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It is a question of going round.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I understand there is no law on the matter.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—A good many were pulled down because they were dirty apart from anything else.

The report was laid on the table.

INSANITARY BUILDINGS AT TAIKOKTSUI.

The PRESIDENT said that this matter had been practically dealt with.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Are we closing these places?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—They are unoccupied. They have been practically rendered uninhabitable by the Government raising the road four feet.

The ACTING REGISTRAR-GENERAL—So if anyone goes in them they would be prosecuted.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—They would probably be turned out any way.

The matter then dropped.

THE PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

A return from Bombay showed that from April 26th to May 18th, 1898, 847 plague cases were reported and 581 deaths. The figures showed the disease to be diminishing.

THE PLAGUE AT MACAO.

The mortality statistics for Macao for the week ended May 29th showed that there were 59 deaths from plague and for the week ended June 5th 27 deaths.

The PRESIDENT minuted—As the disease is evidently decreasing rapidly I am of opinion that the Board should soon move the Government to rescind the declaration that the port is infected. Before doing this we had better await this week's return.

HONGKONG MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Hongkong mortality statistics for the week ended June 4th showed the death rate per

thousand per annum of the population to be 19.5, against 22.6 for the previous week and 24.9 for the corresponding week last year. The returns for the weeks ended June 11th showed the death rate to be 39.2 against 18.3 for the corresponding week last year.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE PLAGUE.

The weekly abstract for the last three months is as follows:—

WEEK ENDED.	CASES.	DEATHS.
March, 12th	16	12
" 19th	31	28
" 26th	47	40
April 2nd	45	40
" 9th	106	87
" 16th	97	92
" 23rd	127	109
" 30th	119	114
May 7th	164	133
" 14th	179	157
" 21st	112	107
" 28th	63	61
June 4th	68	63
" 11th	22	20

The daily returns for the past week are as follow:—

	Cases	Deaths.
June 12th	2	2
" 13th	2	1
" 14th	2	2
" 15th	4	4
" 16th	1	1

THE PARSEE ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

Mr. H. N. Mody, President of the Parsee Community, has sent us copies of the following correspondence received from His Excellency Sir William Robinson, for publication:—

SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON TO LIEUT.-COL. SIR A. BIGGE.

Windham Club, St. James's Square, S.W.
6th May, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward to you in accordance with Her Majesty's instructions communicated to me by the Right Honourable Sir Fleetwood Edward a beautiful silver casket and a Prayer which the loyal Parsee Community of Hongkong have had specially prepared for the Queen's gracious acceptance in connection with Her Majesty's Jubilee.

As lately Governor of Hongkong I have had great pleasure in taking charge of these presents, and I can assure you for Her Majesty's information that the Parsee Community of that Colony is notorious for its loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty.—I am sir, yours, faithfully,

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Lieut.-Col. Sir A. Bigge.

LIEUT.-COL. SIR ARTHUR BIGGE TO

SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Windsor Castle, May 5th, 1898.

Dear Sir,—I have received and laid before the Queen a Silver Casket containing a prayer presented to Her Majesty through you by the Parsee Community of Hongkong on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen desires me to ask you to be good enough to convey the expression of her thanks to all those who were associated in this tribute of loyalty and affection.—Yours very truly,

ARTHUR BIGGE.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G.

THE COLONY'S CONSUMPTION OF MEAT.

Mr. C. Vivian Ladds, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, in his annual report says:—

In order to show the large increase in the number of animals slaughtered each year since I took over the charge of these places in 1887, I insert a list giving the total number for the past 10 years. The decrease in the number of swine killed during the year 1894 I attribute to the plague epidemic of that year, and it will be seen that its effects may also be traced into the two following years. From the number of swine slaughtered during the past year it may be inferred that the native population has considerably increased of late.

ANNUAL LIST OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, FROM
1888 to 1897.

Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Swine.
1888	15,972	9,420	117,432
1889	17,863	10,110	119,856
1890	18,519	10,091	123,833
1891	18,218	9,673	122,942
1892	18,180	11,571	126,766
1893	17,866	11,770	131,298
1894	16,898	10,937	125,725
1895	19,218	12,592	129,035
1896	19,546	14,693	129,103
1897	20,094	14,226	137,748
Total ...	182,374	115,083	1,263,738

A MAN DROWNED AT WATERFALL BAY.

Some commotion was caused on board the steam launch *Shun Lee* as she was returning from Waterfall Bay on Sunday night by a man named Menzies, formerly engineer on the steamer *Hanoi* but latterly unemployed, jumping overboard. The launch was immediately stopped and a man wearing a life-buoy at once jumped into the water with the object of effecting a rescue. He was, however, unsuccessful Menzies being lost sight of. The body was picked up near the *Meane* on Wednesday.

SEIZURE OF ARMS IN THE
HARBOUR.

A FINE OF \$25 IMPOSED.

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Commander Hastings, a boatwoman named Lenny Tsat Mui was charged with unlawfully having in her possession 320 rifles without a licence from the Governor on the 9th inst. Mr. Grist appeared for the defence. The case had been remanded from the 9th instant, when the following evidence was taken:

To Nam, an informer, said that at 11 p.m. on the 8th instant he went to Praya East and watched there. At a quarter to six on the following morning he saw defendant's boat alongside the Praya, and a number of coolies were carrying mat bags similar to the one produced to the boat from Messrs. Meyer's godown. Each of the two mat bags produced contained eight rifles. He subsequently sent his foki for the police. Originally he intended to watch Meyer's godown from the Praya, but found there were too many people on the look out for informers to make it safe to watch on the Praya. Before he sent his foki to call the police a man noticed him on the Praya and called out to the coolies, "These things had better be taken back to the godown; the steamer has gone away." At that time three large packages were being carried to wards defendant's boat. When the police appeared the coolies dropped the packages and ran, and defendant and some children were the only ones who remained.

The foki to the previous witness gave corroborative evidence.

Inspector Cutlbert said that at a quarter to six on the morning of the 9th inst. he was called by the foki, whom he followed to Praya East close to the end of Herbert street. Close to the sea wall he saw a mat package lying, and just abreast the Praya he saw defendant's boat made fast to the Praya wall. In the boat were a number of packages similar to the one lying on the Praya. On opening the packages he found they contained rifles. He telephoned for Inspector Hanson.

Inspector Hanson said that at half-past nine on the evening of the 8th inst., in consequence of information received, he sent the first and second witnesses to watch Meyer's godown during the night. The following morning, in consequence of his receiving a telephone message from Inspector Cutlbert, he went down to Praya East, where he found several mat bags containing 208 breach-loading rifles and 112 muzzle-loading rifles. Defendant had no permit. He afterwards went to Meyer and Co's godown and found there six large mat bags similar to those he had seen on the Praya with the knots of the breach blocks protruding through the matting. He saw wooden cases of rifles standing in the godown. In all

his 24 years' experience he had never seen rifles imported in anything but wooden boxes.

Lo Nam, recalled, said that for four or five days he saw wooden boxes in Meyer's godown being unpacked and the rifles they contained being taken out and packed in mat bags.

Yesterday Mr. Grist, for the defence, said Ng Yu, who was a licensed dealer in arms at 276, Queen's Road Central, claimed the rifles. His firm owed Messrs Meyer a considerable amount of money, and it was arranged that the rifles, which had been stored in Meyer's godown, should be sold and the money thus raised devoted to wiping off the debt. They were to be sold by auction by Mr. Brewitt.

Paul Brewitt, auctioneer, said that on or about the 9th inst. he received a communication from Meyer & Co. with reference to certain rifles. The letter was in German, and was signed by H. Ehmer, Messrs. Meyer's chief clerk. The following is a translation:—"I will let you have to-morrow 216 Manser and 104 Enfield rifles and ask you to sell them at the best possible market value—\$6.75 for M. repeaters; \$5.40 for M. single shooter—\$3.55 Enfield; but I do not bind you to this price. The man owes us money and, therefore, the goods should be realised at the best price. Please sell them if possible this week. No hurry about them." Continuing, witness said he never received the rifles mentioned in the letter.

By the Magistrate—He had been in the colony 20 years, and had been familiar with the trade in arms nearly all that time. He had never had any experience of rifles unpacked and not in cases. When rifles had come to him they had come in boxes before, and when he had sold any of them he had sold them in boxes.

Ng Yui, licensed dealer in arms at 276, Queen's Road Central, said he owed Messrs. Meyer & Co. some money. The rifles which had been seized were his property. They were stored in Messrs. Meyer & Co's godown. On the 9th instant he ordered them to be brought down from there to Mr. Brewitt, auctioneer, to be sold by auction, intending that the money thus realised should be paid to Meyer & Co. He sent his coolie for the rifles.

By the Magistrate—The rifles were sold at one time, and he ordered them to be put in mat bags so that they could go to Macao. They, however, did not go to Macao, as he was prohibited from sending them there.

The foki to the previous witness said that on the 9th inst. he went to Messrs. Meyer's godown to obtain delivery of some rifles, he being instructed to bring them to an auction room. He hired defendant's sampan for the purpose. He put the cases on board but he did not go aboard himself. He instructed defendant to bring the rifles to Pedder's Wharf, where he was going to meet her.

Mr. Grist dealt with the points brought out by his witnesses. He said the rifles were being removed by cargo boat instead of by road to save expense.

Commander Hastings said he remanded the case for a week to see who was morally responsible. The old woman was no doubt legally responsible. She would be fined \$25.

FIREMEN REFUSING DUTY.

A TRIVIAL EXCUSE.

At the Harbour Office on the 10th June, before Commander Rumsey, Charles Stewart, William Chalmers, A. Black, and John Taylor, firemen on board the British steamer *Boyle*, were charged at the instance of William Peart, master of the said vessel, for disobeying the lawful commands of complainant and refusing duty on June 1st on the high seas on board the said ship. Mr. Master (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Looker (Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) for the defence.

Captain Peart said that just before noon on the 31st ult. they were at anchor near Bangkok when Charles Stewart came to him and said he could not eat the pork supplied for the meals, adding that he "was not quite an alligator." Complainant replied that if he had told him the day before he should have been glad to get some salt beef, but pork had been ordered for the following day, and it would have to be eaten. At eight o'clock the following morning, when the vessel was at sea, defendants

came to him and asked for their breakfast. He told them it was in the galley. They replied that they could not eat the breakfast which was there. He said the engineers and the officers were eating it, and surely if they could eat it the firemen could. Charles Stewart said that until he got breakfast he would refuse duty. Subsequently the others said the same, and they had not been to work since.

By Mr. Looker—On the 31st they had hashed meat for breakfast. They had fresh meat for dinner and for tea they had hash again. The day before they had hash or curry and rice. They had curry and rice twice a week. He fed the men far better than the articles required them. It was not a fact that for five days these men had nothing but pork for breakfast, dinner and tea. There were two Mahomedan firemen on board. They would not have pork; they had salt beef and eggs.

A. E. May, the cook, then gave evidence with regard to the food. In reply to Mr. Looker, he said he ate the pork and enjoyed it.

Mr. Looker admitted that in refusing duty the men did wrong. They did not complain of the quality of the pork, but they had had pork so continuously that their gorge began to rise. When the men asked him for a change the captain did not tell them he had arranged for a fresh diet, and as he held out no hope that there would be a change they said they could not work any more.

Commander Rumsey said he had had many cases of refusal of duty, and he had had many excuses, but he did not think he had ever heard a more lame excuse than that brought forward in that case.

The men were each sentenced to imprisonment for three weeks with hard labour.

UNLICENSED DRINKING AT
WATERFALL BAY.

At the Magistracy on 15th June before Commander Hastings James Edwards and five Chinese boys in his employ were charged with selling intoxicating liquors without a licence at a certain mat shed at Waterfall Bay. Mr. Gedge appeared for the defence.

P. C. Grant said—On the 13th instant I left Pottinger Street Wharf at 5.15 p.m. by defendant's launch for Waterfall Bay, which was reached at about 5.45. P. C. Kent was with me, and we were both in plain clothes. We went to defendant's mat shed, an acquaintance of mine accompanying us, and found people standing at the bar just the same as in an ordinary public-house. I called for a bottle of German beer and two whiskies and ginger. I tendered a \$5 note in payment to one of the boys—I think it was to No. 1 boy—and received \$4.48 change. P. C. Kent then called for a couple of drinks and some sandwiches, tendering a \$5 note in payment. Several other people were there. They were calling for drinks—spirits and beer—as if it was a public bar. Mr. Edwards was there, going about as if he was in charge of the place. He came down in the launch. After having a bathe we signalled for Inspector Moffat and the other officers who were in waiting. This was about a quarter to seven. We then went to the mat shed again and P. C. Kent called for two more drinks—beer and whisky—for which he paid 40 cents.

In reply to Mr. Gedge, witness said this launch sailed to Waterfall Bay every day. He believed she made a couple of trips on Sunday.

Don't you know that it is a bathing club which goes out there?—There was a placard on the launch which said "Victoria Bathing Club," and there was a notice stuck up in the mat shed bearing the same words.

Was James Edwards there when you were having the first drinks?—He might have been. He was there when we asked for the third drinks and asked me if I belonged to the police, and I said I did.

Did he not say you had no right to have these drinks?—He did not.

Did not he say you were not a member of the club and had no right to have a drink?—I never heard such a thing as a club mentioned. You paid your dollar and went and got what drinks you chose to pay for.

Were you there when James Edwards was detained?—Yes.

He was detained till midnight was he not?—It was midnight when he got to Hongkong.

What time did the launch leave?—It arrived in Hongkong at midnight.

That was the police launch?—Yes.

Mr. Geddes said that the maximum penalty was \$300 and the liquor could be forfeited, but he submitted that in this case Edwards made a *bona fide* mistake as regarded the law. He got up this bathing-club, and thought he need not take out a license for selling liquor. It was not as if he opened a club or a place in some street in the town of Victoria and kept it open all day and the greater part of the night and as if he had people to whom he sold liquor frequently calling. His Worship had had it in evidence that the club was really a club for bathing and for bathing alone, and it was also in evidence that the only drinking which could possibly go on there was for an hour or a little over. It was not as if for the purpose of defrauding the revenue Edwards kept a saloon here for the purpose of selling liquor. He had evaded the law, he frankly admitted, but he did not intend to do so. He thought that if he got up this bathing club and took people round there to bathe they were entitled afterwards to have drinks. The place had been advertised most freely and was known to everybody. There had been no concealment. The liquor had been there the whole time, and he thought the police might have given this man a word of warning. If they had only said, "Edwards, this is not legal, stop it," he would have stopped it at once; but instead of giving him warning they waited their time and dropped upon him like a thousand of bricks. Edwards was a thoroughly respectable man. He had been 30 years in the colony, being 15 years in the Police Force, seven years as an Inspector. He asked his Worship under the circumstances to inflict but a nominal penalty and not to confiscate the liquor.

Commander Hastings said Edwards would be fined \$50 and the liquor would be confiscated. The other defendants were simply servants, and would be discharged.

ARREST OF A WIFE MURDERER.

A LAST YEAR'S CRIME.

At the Magistracy on 15th June before Commander Hastings, a Chinaman named Won Heung was charged with the wilful murder of his wife in September of last year.

Inspector Hanson said he only intended to ask his Worship to take evidence of arrest that day. The crime was committed in September last, and the witnesses it would be necessary to call were scattered all over the place. He subsequently added that a coroner's enquiry was held, and a verdict was returned to the effect that the woman died from the wounds supposed to have been inflicted by the husband, who had been away in the meantime.

A Chinese constable gave evidence as to arresting prisoner at 6.20 the previous evening in Glasgow Road and charging him with the crime.

Prisoner, who had no questions to ask, was remanded till the 22nd inst.

The following story of the crime appeared in our issue of September 17th, 1897:—A wilful murder was committed in Hongkong on Saturday night. About seven o'clock Chinese Police Constable No. 308 was on special duty in Praya West when he found a woman lying at the door of a house at No. 151, Praya West, bleeding from a wound on the left side of the throat. The constable blew his whistle, and Police Constable 180 soon came on the scene. One of them then went to West Point Police Station and there informed Inspector Hennessey and Sergeant Gauld of the discovery. These officers at once hastened to the house and the Inspector found that the woman was dead. The father and mother of the woman just then arrived at the house, and they told Inspector Hennessey that the husband had murdered the woman and had gone over to Tsimsatsui or Yaumati. The officer at once despatched P.C. 308 and another Chinese constable over to the mainland with instructions to arrest the husband if possible, and then went back to the Police Station and telephoned an account of the occurrence to all the Police Stations in the colony. Sergeant Gauld meanwhile removing the body to the mortuary. The precise details of the case are not yet known, but it appears that the

woman, who is about 21 years of age, is known by the name of Chan Tsai Kiu. Up to about three months ago she resided with her husband at Cheung Sha Wan village, near Samsui. She then came to Hongkong, and it is said that her conduct was such as to make her husband very jealous of her. She lived in various houses, and was last seen alive at No. 151, Praya West, a few days ago, and since then she had been living with her mother at No. 12, East Street. About six o'clock on Saturday night she left the house, and it is believed she went to No. 151, Praya West, where she met her husband, who stabbed her in the throat outside the house. Why she went there and how he knew she was there is not yet known. Unfortunately the search for the husband has as yet been fruitless. Two detectives went on Saturday night to the house of the accused's brother at Cheung Sha Wan, but the wanted man had not then been there and the detectives went away searching elsewhere. Soon after they left the accused man visited the house, but the police were not informed of the visit until after he had gone away, and he still remains at liberty. It will, therefore, be useful to give the man's description. His name is Won Heung. He is about 28 years of age, and is a native of Tung Kun, but for sometime past has been living at Cheung Sha Wan. He is thin and of medium height, and has small black marks on his face. It is believed that he committed the murder with a weapon something like a butcher's knife. Subsequently Inspector Hennessey visited the scene of the tragedy, and found quite close to the house a knife of this description. The blade, which was considerably bent, had turned rusty after having been in the rain.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

On 13th June a general meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association was held at the Volunteer Head-quarters, Sir John Carrington (President) occupying the chair.

The accounts for the past two years were submitted and passed.

Messrs. A. Chapman, G. H. Coles, E. C. Shepherd, Bowery, G. P. Lammert, A. H. Skelton, and M. S. Northcote were elected the Committee.

Mr. Northcote was unanimously selected as honorary secretary and Mr. Lammert as honorary treasurer, Mr. Chapman expressing his willingness to give both gentlemen all the assistance in his power.

Mr. CHAPMAN said that with regard to the position of President, he thought they could not do better than continue as they were. Therefore he had much pleasure in proposing that Sir John Carrington be asked to continue as President to the end of the year, and he hoped for many years to come. (Applause.)

Mr. G. L. DUNCAN seconded, and the resolution was carried with applause.

Sir JOHN, who was heartily received, said he could assure them he had great pleasure in accepting the position again. He should like to mention to them that he was President for some two or three years of a rifle association in British Guiana—a very successful association and one which met with a good deal of public support. He gave himself the pleasure of taking an active interest in its affairs, and he hoped they would let him do the same with their association. (Hear, hear.) The association had fallen back somewhat, but he hoped they would do their best to pull it up again. (Applause.)

Mr. LAMBERT threw out a suggestion that at what he might term the general meetings of the association all the military in the colony below the rank of sergeant should be admitted as honorary members—that was, that they should simply pay their entrance fees for certain events they like to go in for.

Mr. CHAPMAN thought a better plan would be to have special meetings on Saturday afternoons open to all comers.

The PRESIDENT asked if it would not be advisable to ask the committee to consider the matter.

Mr. LAMBERT admitted that this would be

the better course, and on this understanding withdrew his proposition.

Sir JOHN then distributed the aggregate prizes won at Whitsuntide as follows:—Queen's Aggregate: 1, Mr. G. P. Lammert; 2, Mr. E. C. Coles; 3, Mr. E. S. Shepherd; 4, Sergeant Bowery, R.E.; 5, Captain Warren, R.A. Carbine Competition: 1, Mr. A. H. Skelton; 2, Mr. G. P. Lammert; 3, Mr. McDonald. Revolver Competition; Captain Warren.

Sir JOHN said that talking of revolvers some of them might be pleased to hear that the Volunteers beat the Royal Artillery on Saturday afternoon by 10 points. (Applause.)

The hearty thanks of the association were tendered to the donors of the prizes, viz., H.E. Major-General Black, Sir John Carrington, Commodore Holland, the Hon. C. P. Chater, Mr. Thos. Jackson, Commander Rumsey, the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, the Hon. E. R. Belilios, Mr. H. N. Mody, the proprietors of the *Daily Press*, and the proprietors of the *China Mail*.

The proceedings broke up with three hearty cheers for Sir John Carrington.

REVOLVER SHOOTING.

THE VOLUNTEERS BEAT THE R.A.

A revolver competition took place on the revolver range on Saturday between the officers of the Royal Artillery and officers of the Volunteer Corps, the latter, as will be seen from the scores below, coming off victorious. The conditions were—distance 30 yards; target one foot square; bull's eye four inches; twelve rounds, six each hand. Scores:—

ROYAL ARTILLERY.

Captain Simmonds	30
Captain Warren	21
Lieutenant Wilkinson	20
" Browne	14
" Greene	9
" Castle	4

Total 98

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Captain E. D. Sanders	29
" A Chapman	24
Lieutenant G. Fullerton	22
" M. W. Slade	21
" D. Macdonald	7
Major Sir J. W. Carrington	5

Total 108

THE AUDIENCE OF THE FRENCH MINISTER.

ANOTHER ADVANCE IN EQUALITY OF INTERCOURSE.

We translate the following interesting account of the recent reception of the French Minister by the Emperor of China from the *Echo de Chine*:—

The reception of M. Stephen Pichon by H.M. the Emperor of China will leave its mark in the diplomatic annals of Peking. In Europe the importance that Asiatics attach to details of etiquette is too often ignored. For these nations—petrified, so to speak, in the worship of the past—the least modification of custom is either a sacrilege or an indication of a new regime. To properly appreciate the importance of the details in connection with the reception of the Minister for France it is necessary to briefly recall those of previous audiences. Formerly the Ministers were received in the Hall of Tributaries. In November, 1894, thanks to M. Gerard, then our Minister at Peking, and not as reported to Count Cassini, the audiences took place in a special hall known as the Hall of Elegance and Literature. This Chamber had no particular features. It was there that all the Ministers were received together for the first time. After the three traditional salutes the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps made his speech. His place was marked at the foot of an estrade of five steps. His Majesty was seated on the estrade at a small square table covered with a yellow cloth. His Majesty made his reply in the Manchurian language, addressing either Prince Kung or Prince King, who knelt at the left of His Majesty. When His Majesty finished speaking the Prince descended from the estrade and translated into

Chinese what His Majesty had said, and this was then translated into French by the doyen of the interpreters.

On the 17th May M. Pichon presented his credentials and at the same time M. Gerard's letters of recall. The three salutes having been duly made, M. Pichon ascended the estrade, mounting the five steps, and then, standing close to the Emperor, he pronounced in a firm voice a speech excessively concise but of which each sentence was of weight. M. Leduc, the interpreter of the Legation, translated it into Chinese. His Majesty the Emperor, speaking directly to M. Pichon, replied in Chinese, and asked, "Have you good news of the President of the Republic?" After M. Pichon had replied, thanking His Majesty for the interest he showed in the head of the executive, His Majesty read in Chinese his speech, which was immediately translated by M. Leduc. Without rising, His Majesty then saluted several times in a very courteous manner. There was no other prince on the estrade.

Another detail must be noted, one which was much remarked and to which Their Excellencies Li Hung-chang and Chang Yu-wen specially drew the attention of M. Pichon. H.M. the Emperor wore the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour in proof of respect and sympathy.

When M. Pavloff, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, recently presented a telegram from H.M. the Czar to H.M. the Emperor of China, the incident caused much talk, because the diplomat himself presented his despatch, and for this ascended the first step of the Imperial estrade. Without play of words, it may be said that the first step was then taken, but it is thanks to the definitive advance of M. Pichon that direct audience has been established. For the first time H.M. the Emperor of China has spoken directly to a foreign ambassador.

THE MURDER OF FRENCH MISSIONARIES.

The *Echo de Chine* (Shanghai) of the 1st June publishes the following from a Kwangsi correspondent, apparently a missionary:—

"Almost everywhere the Chinese are becoming excited. The demands for ports and concessions are reflected in troubles and vexations in the interior, as might have been foreseen. On the 22nd March, pillage of the oratory and school at Pinnanshien. Nine Christian families were also robbed. The 14th April, in Wusien-shien, demolition of a causeway constructed by Father Herand. The 16th, theft of buffaloes from the farm-school directed by the same Father. The 21st, murder of Father Bertholet and two Christians. These crimes were committed, with flags flying, by the national guard, at the instigation of a military graduate."

In its issue of the 6th June, the latest date received, the same paper has a letter from Nanningfu, dated 21st April, giving the first instalment of an account of the murder of Father Mazel, which we translate as follows:—

The news of the murder of M. Mazel was confirmed to me the day before yesterday by one of the two couriers that accompanied our confrère and who succeeded in escaping death. It is from his narrative that I am unable to give you the following details of the tragedy of which he was an eye-witness. M. Mazel arrived at my house, Nanningfu, on the 19th November, 1896. After a few days' rest he left on the 24th Nov. by boat for Posé. He was going to Sylinhien, in the north-west of the province, to study the language while awaiting assignment to a district. Hardly had he reached Posé when a severe attack of fever compelled him to return to Nanningfu. I succeeded in curing him. On the 5th March last he again left for Nanningfu. He was quite well and earnestly desired to commence work as early as possible for the salvation of souls. With his good spirits and piety he promised to make an excellent missionary. On the 15th March he arrived safely at Posé. On the 17th he sent his card to the Prefect, but the latter did not deign to acknowledge the politeness. On the 19th our confrère left Posé by chair, following the Yunnan Road, which passes the market town of Loli, where we have a rest house for our travelling confrères, which is usually occupied by a caretaker. M. Mazel arrived at Loli on the 22nd March,

about three o'clock in the afternoon, without incident. A little before reaching the town, however, he had met some muleteers who were going back the way they had come because half a league beyond Loli their mules and horses with their packs of European merchandise had been seized by a band of brigands. The first care of the missionary was to send his card to the petty military mandarin of the district. As he had to change his bearers, and as it was moreover imprudent to proceed without an escort along a road where pillage was openly practised, he decided to tarry at Loli. There he had nothing to fear; the place was quiet, trade was proceeding as usual, and a few hundred soldiers from Posé provided for the public safety. Not being able to obtain bearers at Loli, M. Mazel wrote to M. Lavest, who resided at a distance of three days' journey asking him to find him some amongst his Christians and to obtain an escort for him. Unfortunately M. Lavest was not at home, having gone to Sylinhien. Hence there was a considerable delay. The courier, obliged to go on from Chali, the ordinary residence of M. Lavest, to Sylinhien, did not return to Loli until the morning of the 1st April, bringing with him instructions from M. Lavest and a letter from the sub-Prefect of Sylinhien ordering the military mandarin of Loli to give M. Mazel an escort to enable him to continue his journey. It was too late. That same morning our confrère had been killed with one of the men who accompanied him. During his sojourn at Loli M. Mazel had found himself surrounded from morning to night by a crowd of people attracted by the desire to see the "foreign devil," and all using the most blood-thirsty expressions with regard to foreigners.

Here the account breaks off with the words "To be continued."

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN GRIDLEY, OF U.S.S. "OLYMPIA."

Kobe, 6th June.

At half-past nine yesterday morning Captain Gridley, of the U.S.S. *Olympia*, died on board the S.S. *Coptic* in the harbour. The deceased officer had been suffering from dysentery for some time. After the engagement at Manila the complaint took a serious turn, and it was thought advisable to invalid him home. On the passage up from Hongkong he seemed at first to revive, and his friends felt hopeful that he would pull through the attack. On Saturday evening, however, he had a relapse, and notwithstanding all that could be done for him, he passed quietly away yesterday morning. Captain C. V. Gridley was considered one of the most efficient officers in the service. Joining in 1861 he rapidly rose, and went into active service during the Civil War. He was one of the very few in the Asiatic Squadron who had seen service in the sixties, during which he was promoted to a command shortly before the close of the war. He was 53 years of age, and leaves a wife, two daughters, and a son to mourn his loss.

Paymaster Gault of U.S.S. *Raleigh*, who was accompanying the deceased officer, has had the body embalmed and placed in a casket. It will be taken on to San Francisco, where it will be interred with the usual naval honours. Captain Gridley was a native of Michigan, but had lived for many years in Pennsylvania, where his wife and family now reside.—*Chronicle*.

THE PORTUGUESE AT MANILA.

BEING REFUSED BRITISH PROTECTION THEY ARE PLACED UNDER GERMAN PROTECTION.

The *Echo Macaense* publishes the following extract from a letter dated Manila, 2nd June:—

The Portuguese Consul yesterday called the Portuguese residents of Manila together and addressed them, more or less, as follows:—

Under existing circumstances, although I do not wish to appear as a pessimist, Manila may at any hour be bombarded or attacked by the rebels, and in order that the security of the Portuguese residents might be provided for I requested the British Consul to take them under his protection,

seeing that England is, and calls herself, the firm friend of Portugal, and seeing that England has ships of war here and Portugal has none. The British Consul replied, however, that he regretted being unable to accede to the request, on account of the British residents in Manila being numerous (including the Chinese.) In view of this I told him I would be under the painful necessity of soliciting the protection of some other power (although the number of Portuguese here is limited, twelve in all), with which he agreed. I immediately approached the German Consul, requesting his protection, to which he at once, in the name of his Government, assented, and offered to receive all the Portuguese on board the vessels chartered expressly for the reception of Germans. Portuguese who desire to avail of this permission can go on board immediately, upon obtaining a note from myself.

The Portuguese warmly thanked the Consul for the trouble he had taken and expressed their hopes for the triumph of the Spanish arms.

THE FATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. H. W. Bray writes to the *Singapore Free Press*:—

The author of the *Spectator* article, quoted in your yesterday's issue under the above heading, has put forward one sensible proposition; his theories on other points may be all right, but I am afraid he has reckoned without his host. America has not yet conquered the Philippines—not by a long way—but will occupy them with the assistance and good-will of the Philippines. The possession of Manila no more means the possession of the Philippines than the possession of New York means the possession of America, and without this good-will and assistance of the inhabitants, I must beg leave to state that neither the United States nor any other nation could ever hope to take the Philippines, except with an army of 200,000 men or more, if even then, no matter what theorists may say to the contrary. The solutions which the European papers have been kind enough to put forward re the disposal of the Philippines may be dismissed with the words of General Augustin's proclamation, "vain designs, ridiculous boasts!" When the time comes, I am inclined to think the inhabitants themselves are going to have the biggest say in this question, especially after the events of 30th May to 1st June last.

Spain, with an army of 35,000 men fully armed, has been able to do nothing against an army of imperfectly organized Philipinos, who have never disposed of more than 600 rifles. Yet nobody can taunt the Spanish soldier with want of valour, whilst his patient endurance of hardships and privations, indifferent food, and entire absence of personal comforts, give him the advantage over other European soldiers, who require an efficient commissariat and transport department. In a country like the Philippines a soldier to be effective must be able to skip from crag to crag like a goat, without hindrances or paraphernalia, to be evenly matched with the inhabitants.

The Tagals will feel very much insulted if they try to garrison their villages by troops of the type proposed by the writer of the article under review. It would be a dangerous experiment. I would not advise the Americans or any one else to try. Such crass ignorance on the state of the Philippines and its inhabitants exists on every side, that it is almost useless to try and explain to outsiders that the Philippines are as different from British India, Ceylon, Burma, The West Indies, etc., as light is from darkness. The people are the most enlightened and vigorous branch of the Malay race, and have been Christians for centuries, in fact longer than the principles of the Reformation were established in Great Britain, and are the nearest akin to Europeans of any alien race, and it is simply ridiculous to imagine that eight to ten millions of such people can be bought and sold as an article of commerce, without first obtaining their consent. Let all those who are greedy for a slice of the Archipelago ponder well over this, before burning their fingers.

To put them on a level with Sikhs and Afridis is simple nonsense. The much over-estimated Sikh would find his match pretty

soon with the sturdy Philippine native, and those who think differently had better read what no less an authority than General Gordon says of his Philippine troops in the Taiping rebellion.

No decent or respectable Philippino will tolerate any social relations with the pagan Chinese.

The only possible solution of the Philippine question is an independent Government, under American protection, and this is the policy I recommended General Aguinaldo and his compatriots to accept, and which will no doubt be carried out. Time will show.

RAILWAY AND MINING CONCESSIONS IN SHANSI.

The Peking corres., ondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date of the 29th May:—

Two most important contracts were signed at the Tsungli Yamén during the past week. Both were first reported by the Yamén to the Throne in separate memorials and afterwards approved by Imperial decree. The first of these was a contract with the Russo-Chinese Bank for a railway one-hundred and forty miles long from Taiyuanfu, the Capital of Shansi province, to Chengtingfu, in the province of Chihli, the first large city south of Paoingfu, on the trunk line known as the Lu-Han, now under construction. This contract also includes mining privileges along the route and the building of such branch roads as the working of mines may necessitate.

The second contract and by far the more important is granted to M. Luzatti, agent of the Anglo-Italian syndicate, for working coal, iron, and petroleum throughout Central and Southern Shansi with privilege of building railways and cutting canals to join trunk lines or navigable rivers. This contract is for a period of sixty years, during which the control is entirely vested in the Anglo-Italian syndicate.

As experts have long since pronounced Shansi the banner province of China for iron and coal it can readily be seen that this concession is by long odds the greatest industrial concession ever made by China.

Your correspondent has seen the contract bearing the seal of the Tsungli Yamén and can affirm beyond doubt that the result of the workings of this plan to a completion will be vastly beneficial to the Empire and certainly profitable to the syndicate. As more than six-tenths of the capital of this syndicate is represented by English firms of prominence, and the engineers and staff generally are to consist of Englishmen and Americans, it is certain that ability and energy will combine to make Shansi a great mining and manufacturing centre. The *Kobe Chronicle* of some time in October last had a long article by a Russian traveller describing the wonderful mineral wealth of Southern and Central Shansi and urging that this should be developed under foreign auspices. It seems that the Chinese have at last been brought to realise this and have entrusted the matter to Chevalier Duzatti's syndicate.

A telegram received in Peking the day before yesterday from A. W. Bash stated that the Carey-Washburn syndicate had signed contracts in Washington with the Chinese Minister, Wu Ting-fang, to construct three railways, viz., The Hankow-Canton, the Lu-Han, and another. The first of the roads has doubtless been given to this syndicate, but there must be some mistake about the Lu-Han, as I understand on good authority that King Leopold himself telegraphed H.E. Li Hung-chang that the Belgians would build the Lu-Han and furnish the capital, if not required by Sheng Taotai to commence simultaneously from both ends of the line. H.E. Sheng has been holding out for this, as he is very anxious that the road should be completed within three years. Bash, however, is coming out again, but in what capacity we are unable to say.

We (*China Gazette*) are given to understand that the Constable of the British Consulate-General at Seoul, who is charged with causing the death of a Korean, as previously reported, is not Mr. Wyers, but his successor, whose name is not known in the Consulate here. Mr. Wyers having left Seoul lately for home.

RIOTING AT NINGPO.

8th June.

To-day, at noon, four or five thousand people came in from the country and one of their first acts was to attack the opium waiyuan's office, which, according to native report, has been burnt down. All the shops have closed. The officials are reported to have taken fright, and can't be found! At time of writing the mob is going over to the East Suburbs, with the intention of raiding the rice hong. Most of the people have come from a village called Ning-kongdjiao where a riot took place a week ago, some 13 rice shops having been destroyed. Will send further news.

9th June.

The following is a brief account of the riot in the city on Wednesday afternoon.

About noon, some three thousand country people arrived at the South Gate with the intention of interviewing the magistrate about the imposition of a tax upon a Chinese drug. Their contention was, that with the present high price of rice, it was impossible to pay any additional taxes.

The mob represented eighteen temples, the usual procedure of pressing men into this service having been resorted to. If any man refused to make one of the band, then his own house would suffer. If any household could not furnish a male representative, then it had to subscribe 1,000 cash towards the expenses of the expedition!

The temper of the mob was manifested immediately on their arrival at the South Gate, where they at once proceeded to demolish a small native custom-house; finally setting fire to the heap.

A move was then made towards the hsien's yamen. All the shops immediately closed their doors.

News of the rioters' approach had preceded them, with the result that a number of minor officials made themselves scarce.

The chief officials, however, met the danger splendidly, not in the least showing the "white feather."

On arrival of the mob at the hsien's yamen, they found the magistrate awaiting them, and ready to listen to their complaints. He pleaded with them to disperse, and he would do his best to lighten the burdens they complained of. Unfortunately, a number of the rowdy element of Ningpo city had joined with the country people, and they did their best to egg on their country cousins. In an altercation with some of them, one of the soldiers cut the hand of one of the people with his sword.

At once a big shout went up, and the work of demolishing the contents of the yamen commenced. Everything that was smashable was broken. The hsien was forced to retreat, not, however, before he had been treated with great indignity; his beard and queue being pulled, and one of his shoulders bitten.

Seizing a small military officer, the crowd stripped him of his uniform, and even shoes and stockings, and demanded that he should lead them to the house of Dzing Kyi-de, a literary M.A., who is supposed by the people to be the cause of a lot of their oppressions. The man was forced to guide the rioters, who began calling out that only the head of the above named M.A. would satisfy them. Fortunately, Mr. Dzing had had warning, and decamped before the arrival of the people.

They made a total ruin of his house, even smashing the tiles on the roof. Their next move was to the Taotai's yamen. Here was a guard of from thirty to forty "Greenheads," the best drilled troops in Ningpo. The Taotai did all in his power to conciliate the people, and made them promises that all extra taxation should be abolished, and that the price of rice should be reduced. The crowd, however, would not believe his promises, and pressing on, they got as far as the third inner court of his yamen.

The guard then presented an immovable front, whilst several written promises were put up, granting all the people asked for. They demanded that the Taotai should prove his sincerity by opening the official granaries at once. As this was not granted, they commenced making a violent demonstration, smashing one or two of the yamen doors. At this the patience of the Taotai became exhausted,

and he ordered the "Greenheads" to load their rifles with blank cartridge and fire. This had the effect of making most of the people retreat, but seeing no one hurt, a number retaliated by throwing stones. The soldiers were ordered to fix bayonets and charge. This they did, and the Taotai won the day. A number of the rioters were wounded, whilst nearly twenty were arrested. The rest made their way out of the city with the threat that they would return with firearms and revenge themselves.

The Taotai at once made all preparations. All the ladies in his yamen were sent to safe places, and additional soldiers and a lot of ammunition were added for the defence of the yamen.

The night has passed quietly, however, and reinforcements arrived in the person of the General commanding the forces in Chékiang, who arrived most opportunely from Wenchow with his suite in the gunboat *Chaowu*. The old soldier proved his military ardour by at once ordering 1,000 soldiers up from Chinghai, and this morning he has put out a brief but terse proclamation, in which he says that if the people act as rebels, then he will treat them as rebels, and have no mercy upon them. The three principal yaméns are now guarded by soldiers, for report has been current for a few days, that several thousand men from the Fênghua district are coming to the city either to-day or to-morrow. With such a Taotai and General awaiting them, their reception will undoubtedly be a very warm one, if they attempt to break the peace. The man who yesterday saved the city is Taotai Wu.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

THE "AMARAPOORA."

Shanghai, 10th June.

Nothing appears to have been done in reference to the stranding of this steamer at the South East Promontory, which took place some weeks ago. The captain and second engineer elected to stand by the wreck and there we believe they remain. The ship is hard and fast on the rocks, but no offers of assistance, so far as we know, have been accepted.

The others of the officers and crew are in Shanghai, but they have up to the present received no money. The ship's articles were signed in San Francisco and she loaded railway timber at a Pacific coast port for Tientsin. Arriving at Yokohama part cargo was sold and the *Amarapoora* was on her way to Tientsin with the balance when she went ashore. It appears to be time enough now when something definite should be forthcoming; either the abandonment of the ship or the commencement of salvage operations. Further, is any inquiry going to be made into the stranding of the ship?—*Mercury*.

THE PRICE OF THE SHASHI RIOT.

Bills are beginning to be presented to the Chinese Government for the liabilities contracted by certain Chinese subjects on the occasion of the recent little excitement at Shashi. The Japanese claim has been the first to be sent in, and the particulars of the demand have been communicated by telegram to Chang Chih-tung, with the request that he will inform the Tsung-li yamen of his views on the subject.

The Japanese are reported to demand that:

(a) An Imperial decree be issued ordering the officials and people to respect foreign life and property in China and forbidding rioting in future.

(b) That the actual rioters and the native officials, who failed to preserve order, and who therefore must be held responsible for the outbreak, be rigorously punished.

(c) That Tls. 105,000 be at once paid for damage done to Japanese property during the riot.

(d) That the regulations referring to the Japanese Settlement at Shashi be revised in order to make them agree with those relating to the Japanese Settlement at Hangchow.

(e) That Japan be granted the right to establish separate Japanese Settlements at Yochow in Hunan, Santu (Sansha Bay) and Foochow.

What Chang Chih-tung thinks of the claims has not yet been ascertained. To us they seem very moderate indeed.—*China Gazette*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

It is satisfactory to learn that the plague in Canton is gradually dying away, the number of admissions to the plague hospitals being much smaller than a fortnight ago, when from three to four hundred cases were reported daily. Now there are only about fifty cases a day. It is said that the plague this year has been more violent than in 1894, when the people affected with the disease were mostly of the lower class, whereas this time a good number of upper class people have been claimed as victims by the pest. The district affected most seriously is San-oi, where over twenty thousand people have succumbed to the disease. The report that the Magistrate of Pun-u and his wife had succumbed to the disease is incorrect. The Magistrate was seen on the 6th instant in his yamen attending to his duties.

A party of native Christians have raised a subscription to establish a library named Ta-Kwong-lau, in Wai-Ben Street, where people are to be admitted free. The building will be completed by the end of August.

On the 10th instant the people were much alarmed by the sudden breaking of a gale. The gunboats at once fired at the black clouds for the purpose of scaring away the tailless dragon which was supposed to have shown its appearance. Not long afterwards the gale ceased. During the gale some small boats capsized and some houses were unroofed.

Rice is very dear in Swatow, where the new crops have been completely destroyed by the continued drought. A dollar can only buy seventeen catties. Some local Sansz have asked the local magistrate to find a means to import rice from other places. The people do not show anything of a rebellious spirit.

A Sansz named Chan Kwong-Chin petitioned the Sin-Hau-Kuk some days ago asking to be allowed to establish a tax on all the eating houses, of which he would like to be a farmer. His application was declined.

Two rebellions have broken out in Kwangsi, one in Waichap and the other in Ianchow. The Governor of Kwangsi has sent soldiers to the rebellious districts, but no fight between the rebels and the soldiers has taken place as yet.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,408 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 169 were Europeans.

Mr. G. Stafford Northcote, Assistant Postmaster-General, left by the *Gaelic* on 16th June for England on six months' leave of absence.

The stamp revenue last month was \$24,552, being an increase of \$5,045 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year.

The maximum temperature last month was 91.5 on the 30th, and the minimum 64.9, on the 1st, the mean for the month being 78.4. The rainfall amounted to 5.7 inches.

The paddle-wheel steamer *Kwong Hoi*, lately engaged in the Canton trade, left on 15th June for Manila with, we understand, a full cargo, consisting mainly of provisions for the men-of-war of various nationalities now stationed in Manila Bay.

Mr. Hugh McCallum has resigned the Secretaryship of the Sanitary Board, owing to ill-health. The eulogies pronounced on Mr. McCallum at the meeting of the Board on Thursday will be heartily endorsed by all who have followed the sanitary history of the colony during the past ten years. His resignation and the cause of it will be sincerely regretted.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st May, 1898, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	\$2,836,976	\$1,300,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	\$6,439,806	\$3,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	\$ 450,000	\$ 150,000
Total	\$9,726,782	\$4,450,000

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Acting Governor has been pleased to appoint Captain J. H. Laurie, The King's Own Regiment, to be Private Secretary, vice Captain F. R. Loveband, who vacates that appointment.

Our readers will learn with regret of the sad death of Mr. Gustave Bernard, late secretary to the Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Hongkong. Mr. Bernard, who had been ailing for some time, had voyaged to Bangkok by the *Siam*, transferring there to the *Phra Chom Hlao*. Desiring to go ashore he called for a sampan, and while stepping into the boat slipped and fell over board, sinking out of sight immediately. The body was subsequently recovered and taken ashore for burial. The deceased gentleman, who was a Mason, was well known in Hongkong, and on account of his kindly nature was much respected. During the troubles in the Transvaal he was a member of the Reform Committee. Mr. Bernard was 40 years of age, and a native of Hongkong.

It was with sincere sorrow that the community learned on Wednesday of the death of Mrs. Burdon, the wife of the Right Rev. Bishop Burdon, which occurred at sea on board the steamer *Frejr* on Tuesday. Mrs. Burdon had been suffering for some time at Pakhoi from the effects of a chill and when her illness took a serious turn it was decided to bring her to Hongkong in order that she might enjoy the benefit of the Peak climate. A telegram was accordingly despatched requesting that the *Frejr* might call in at Pakhoi on her present trip, and Bishop and Mrs. Burdon took passage by her, accompanied by Dr. Horder. Mrs. Burdon died, however, before the voyage was completed. The body was brought on to Hongkong and was buried on Wednesday afternoon. The funeral was largely attended, many ladies being present. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold. The deceased lady during her long residence in this colony won the loving regard of all with whom she was brought in contact, and the affection in which she was held was warmly expressed when her husband resigned the bishopric and severed his connection with Hongkong. After a visit to Europe Bishop and Mrs. Burdon returned to China a few months ago and took up their residence at Pakhoi, where they have since resided. The most sincere sympathy will be felt with the Bishop and his sons in their sad bereavement.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the British Consular Court at Kobe a man named Edward Allan Wallace Mackay has been committed for trial on a charge of obtaining from Inouye Mankichi, of the Yaami Hotel, Kyoto, the sum of 50 yen, with intent to defraud. The prisoner went to the office of the hotel and asked for a loan of 50 yen, stating that he would give a cheque on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for the amount, which would be duly honoured. On presentation of the cheque the Bank refused to cash it and stated that the prisoner had had no dealings with them whatever. The hotel proprietor also had a claim against the prisoner of 18.54 yen for lodging and chits. Another similar case in reference to a cheque for 100 yen given to a tradesman was adjourned.

The *Kobe Herald* says:—We have just received further particulars with regard to the deplorable accident which happened to Captain Wright of the steamer *Mogul* at Portland, Or. He was struck by a falling boom at No. 4 hatch, just as the last sling load came out of the hold, and the falls must have touched the boom which had been properly lashed, but, during the day, some one, unbeknown to the officers, had removed the lashing. As the boom fell, the block struck the Captain over the shoulders or back, crushing him to his knees, and holding him in this doubled up position. Needless to say, the officers extricated him with all possible haste, but it was at once seen that he was very dangerously injured. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital immediately after the accident, and was conscious the whole time, although suffering greatly. He died at 4.30 a.m. Dr. Adam, his Chief Engineer, and the Chief Officer and the hospital nurse were with him when he died. Captain Wright was a widower and leaves a son of about 16. Unfortunately our advices do not give the date of the accident.

Peking has been taken in badly, we learn from a correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, by a foreign swindler who gave himself out as an Englishman named Wilson. Pretending to have Sir Claude Macdonald's letter of introduction, he secured a letter from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank compradore to H. E. Hu Yü-fen, Director of the Imperial Railways, and victimised him to the extent of one hundred dollars. Two guests of the Hotel de Pekin lent him sixty dollars "until the Bank opened," and other good-natured confiding foreigners and natives were "taken in" to his confidence in the sum total of over five hundred dollars. He got away with his plunder, but Sir Claude Macdonald had him arrested at Tangku by a wire to Tientsin.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Foochow, 10th June.—Musters were placed on the market on the 23rd ultimo, and the following districts have since been dealt in:—

Congous—71,845 half-chests.

Viz.:

Pakling	38,08 boxes.
Paklum	6,786 half-chts.
Panyong	38,330 "
Yung How	102 "
Seu Moo	11,426 "
Tong Fong Tong	2,526 "
Souchongs—	26,889 half-chests.
Oolongs—	None.
Scented Teas—	6,767 boxes.
Flowery Pekoes—	4,078 chests.

Hankow, 9th June.—Business reported since the 2nd inst. is as under:—

Settlements ... 1898. 1897.
99,946 ½-chts. 116,677 ½-chts.

Consisting of the following Teas:—

	per picul.
Ningchows... 21,318 ½-chts. at Tls. 15.25 to 41.00	
Khemuns ... 1,613 " " 24.00 to 51.50	
Ho-hows..... 1,367 " " 14.50 to —	
Oopacks 9,964 " " 10.90 to 43.00	
Oonams 28,787 " " 10.30 to 32.00	
Oonfaas 32,312 " " 13.00 to 29.00	
Seang-tams.. 4,585 " " 10.30 to 15.50	

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 7th June, 1897.

	1898.	1897.
Hankow Tea.		
Settlements ... 365,456 ½-chts.		276,160 ½-chts.
Stock..... 34,553 "		114,270 "

Arrivals..... 400,009 "	390,430 "
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	1898.	1897.
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements ... 177,483 ½-chts.		151,984 ½-chts.
Stock..... 25,495 "		43,567 "

Arrivals..... 292,978 "	195,551 "
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The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular of last year is estimated as under:—

	1898.	1897.
For London,		
Africa and		
European	102,939 ½-chts.	109,863 ½-chts.
Continent		
For Russia..... 410,000 "		318,281 "
	542,939 ½-chts.	428,444 ½-chts.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow	3,699,315	3,866,035
Foochow	679,235	2,639,934
	4,378,550	6,555,969

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	8,481,349	3,696,800

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	534,850	—
Kobe	686,200	—
	1,221,110	—

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 11th June.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The London market is quiet and Blue Elephants are quoted at 10/8 according to the last wire. Raw Silk.—Some 600 bales have been settled since our last, prices at the moment are somewhat steadier. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 4th June to 10th June, are: 585 bales White, 8 bales Yellow, and 194 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels.—350 bales Steam Filatures have been settled for America, Lungha 1st choice at Tls. 800, and Sin chong 1st choice at Tls. 765/785. There has been a small business doing for Lyons in Hand Filatures. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is 9 bales to the Continent, Wild Silk.—Market quiet. Pongees.—Some 4,000 pieces of White Cloth have been settled as follows:—

in	by	yd.	oz.	p.c.	Conjee.....at Tls.	per piece.
21/23	by	70	56/57	by	5	18.80
21/23	"	70	"	"	5	14.00
23/27	"	70	66/67	"	free	21.25

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	214	246

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—There is no change to report in the position of this market. Quotations for Formosa are \$41.50 to \$41.75. Sales, 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—The demand has slackened and prices are weaker. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.32 to 7.35	per pol.
do. " 2, White...	7.11 to 7.14	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.81 to 4.85	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.71 to 4.74	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.23 to 7.26	"
do. " 2, White...	6.96 to 7.00	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.77 to 4.80	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.70 to 4.72	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.20 to 11.25	"
Shekloong	10.45 to 10.50	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per German steamer *Bellona*, sailed on the 30th May. From Hongkong for Marseilles:—17 bales hair. For Havre:—408 packages tea, 262 rolls mats, 225 cases camphor, 41 cases Chinaware, 35 cases staranised, 30 human hair, and 9 boxes feathers. For Havre option Hamburg:—300 cases palm leaf fans, 10 bales canes, and 6 cases paper. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—50 cases staranised, and 20 cases essential oil. For Hamburg:—983 packages tea, 507 cases camphor, 167 bales canes, 60 bales rattanware, 34 rolls matting, 29 cases fans, 26 bales rattan shaving, 25 cases staranised, 21 cases paper, 20 cases aniseed oil, 20 cases essential oil, 15 casks wood oil, 9 cases Chinaware, 4 packages sundries, and 2 cases preserves. For Hamburg option London:—50 boxes bristles. For Antwerp option London:—20 cases bristles. For Bremen:—189 rolls matting. For Antwerp:—34 bales feathers. For Lisbon:—6 packages China and lacquered ware.

Per steamer *Energia*, sailed on the 28th May. For New York:—1,500 bales broken cassia, 246 cases cassia, 135 cases Chinaware, 100 packages gallnuts, 26 cases paper, 25 casks cumquats, 36 packages blackwoodware, 1 case silks, 6 cases bristles, and 1,211 packages merchandise.

Per German steamer *Niobe*, sailed on the 4th June. From Hongkong for Marseilles:—15 cases essential oil, and 9 packages hair. For Hamburg:—1 case P/effects, and 1 box silk. For Rotterdam:—25 cases cassia. For London:—30 cases essential oil.

Per steamer *Ulysses*, sailed on the 4th June. For London:—469 packages tea (9,849 lbs.), 80 packages tea, 6 packages sundries, 31 cases bristles, 131 packages shell, 45 cases blackwoodware, 70 bales feathers, 120 cases essential oil, 2 cases pianos, and 7 cases effects. For Marseilles:—200 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—4 cases Chinaware and 2 cases ginger. For New York:—30 cases aniseed oil. For Beyrouth:—1 case silk.

Per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, sailed on the 7th June. For San Francisco:—597 packages tea. For La Union:—2 cases silk goods. For San Jose de Guakmala:—1 case silk goods. For La Libertad:—3 cases silk goods. For Callao:—4 cases silk goods. For Guayaquil:—6 cases silk goods.

Per P. & O. steamer *Malacca*, sailed on the 9th June. For Buenos Ayres:—12 cases sundries. For Amsterdam:—285 1/2 chests tea from Foochow. For London:—50 bales waste silk, 104 rolls matting, 15 cases personal effects, 3 packages rattan chairs, 7 cases sundries, and 771 boxes tea (16,191 lbs.). For Gibraltar:—1 case curios. For Malta:—1 case curios.

Per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on the 11th June. For Manchester:—2 cases silks. For London:—576 packages tea, and 6 bales feathers from Foochow, 2 cases feathers, 3 cases silks, 6 cases personal effects, and 4 bales raw silk. For London, Rotterdam and/or Amsterdam:—1,709 packages tea from Foochow. For France:—423 bales raw silk, and 3 cases silks. For Gibraltar:—3 cases curios.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—Bengal.—Owing to reduced stocks and the firmness of holders there has been a spurt in the rates for this drug. New Patna closing at \$705, Old Patna at \$747 1/2, New Benares at \$702 1/2, and Old Benares at \$730.

Malwa.—The market has ruled steady, and a slight improvement in prices has taken place. The following are the latest quotations:—
Old (2 1/5 yrs.) \$830 with all'nce of 0 to 3 cts.
" (6/7 ") \$870 " " of 0 to 1 " "
" (8/9 ") \$900 " " of 0 to 3 1/2 " "
Persian.—Oily drug has ruled out of favour, whilst extensive dealings have taken place in Paper-wrapped, quotations for which show some advance on previous figures. Current rates are \$490 to \$630 for the former, and \$550 to \$700 for the latter, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna..... 380 chests
Old Patna..... 240 "
New Benares..... 340 "
Old Benares..... 115 "
Malwa..... 220 "
Persian..... 680 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.						
June 11	\$90	742 1/2	\$90	720	—	—
June 12	690	742 1/2	690	720	—	—
June 13	690	742 1/2	688 1/2	720	—	—
June 14	690	742 1/2	688 1/2	720	—	—
June 15	692 1/2	742 1/2	692 1/2	725	—	—
June 16	687 1/2	742 1/2	695	730	—	—
June 17	705	747 1/2	702 1/2	730	—	—

RICE.

HONGKONG 17th June.—stocks are accumulating and prices are a shade easier. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$3.00 to 3.04
Round, good quality.....	3.40 to 3.43
Long	3.62 to 3.65
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	3.26 to 3.30
Garden, " No. 1 ...	3.75 to 3.78
White	4.60 to 4.63
Fine Cargo	4.82 to 4.85

COALS.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—The market for all kinds has come to a standstill, sellers ruling and no buyers. Quotations are nominal. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$20.00 to 27.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian	11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, quiet
Milki Lump }	\$10.00 to 12.50 nominal
and Small. }	
Moji Lump ...	9.00 to 11.50 ex ship, quiet
Hongay Lump	12.50 to — nominal.
Hongay Dust..	5.00 to — "
Briqueettes ...	10.00 to — "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales 6 at \$75, 750 bales No. 10 at \$75 to \$93.50, 400 bales No. 12 at \$79 to \$89, 250 bales No. 16 at \$92 to \$94.50, 1,060 bales No. 20 at

\$94 to \$101 Japanese Yarn.—50 bales No. 20 at \$93. Grey Shirtings.—300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.55, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Peach at \$2.72 1/2, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.06, 1,200 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Jos. B. at \$3.12 1/2, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$4.07 1/2, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.55, 800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blu. Peach at \$3.06, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Clock at \$2.02 1/2, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$2.05, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$4.07 1/2, 1,750 pieces 7 lbs. Eagle at \$1.95, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$4.07 1/2, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Chair Chop at \$2. White Shirtings.—300 pieces No. 1 at \$6.32 1/2, 300 pieces Blue Lion K. at \$6.05, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$1.02 1/2, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.02 1/2, 250 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.02 1/2, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.20, 250 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.45, 250 pieces Flying Horse at \$2.40, 150 pieces Blue Lion M. at \$6.05, 1,000 pieces Gold Joss B. at \$3.55, 1,000 pieces Fox and Duck \$5.55, 8,000 O. Mark at \$4.42 1/2, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.25, 300 pieces Blue Lion M. at \$6.05, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.02 1/2, 250 pieces Esmerada at \$5.82 1/2, 250 pieces Spear Man at \$5.40, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.02 1/2, 250 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.02 1/2, 250 pieces No. 300 at \$3.75, 300 pieces Blue Lion M. at \$6.05, 500 pieces Gold Joss B. at \$3.65, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.20. T. Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Lion No. 2 at \$1.89, 375 pieces Mex. Blue Dragon B.B. at \$2.45, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Lion No. 24 at \$1.89, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Pheasant at \$1.95, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. B. Dra. B. at \$2.45, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Men No. 950 at \$2.20, 375 pieces Mex. Gold Pheasant at \$2.05. Victoria Lawns.—1,000 pieces Red Lion at \$0.98 1/2. METALS.—Tin.—100 slabs Foong Chai at \$40.50, 100 slabs Siam at \$42, 100 slabs Siam at \$40.60.

SHANGHAI, 11th June.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Quietness, almost amounting to stagnation, has again been the chief characteristic of the market during the interval. This may be caused to some extent by the difficult position operators are placed in with regard to the ever uncertain question of Exchange, but the falling off in clearances, lately, points to a more radical reason for the disinclination to buy at present. The country throughout is much disturbed by the attempts that are being made to increase the taxation to make up for the loss the Government sustains through the whole of the Customs Revenue being hypothecated to pay the interest on the foreign loans it has been necessary to raise. This has unfortunately come at a time when there is considerable anxiety with regard to the crops, and all food stuffs are abnormally dear, and is, therefore, not unnaturally resented by the masses, who, at the best of times, only eke out a hand to mouth existence. Rain, of which we have had a superabundance here, has been badly needed in the North, but during the week the fears for the crops that were entertained have been allayed and what threatened to be a serious famine averted. Advices from Peking, Newchwang, and Tientsin all report a sufficient fall of rain, and now the monsoon has set in properly it may be anticipated that the weather will assume its normal character. In the meantime, with the settling day so near ahead, it cannot be expected that the trade will be resumed with much briskness until that is over, which Importers will not object to so much if clearances of former purchases will only improve. With exception of the present lull they have been very fair so far this season, American goods particularly so. It was thought that the goods offered at the Auctions this week would suffer considerably through the expectation that Exchange would go much higher, but the results, as a whole, were surprisingly good. Woollens, however, are not yet out of the wood.

METALS, 13th June.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—Metals have been almost dead. The following is the only transaction reported:—50 tons Spokes at 98s. c.i.f.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 17th June.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.39 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.43

ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.93½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	143
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	142
Bank, on demand	143
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	64 % pm
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nom.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	¾ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.39
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	55.00

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 17th June.—There has been a little more general business put through during the week under review, but the market continues dull and rates show no improvement.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, with a constant supply of shares offering from the North, have ruled weaker with only very small sales at 193 per cent. prem. On time a few small parcels are enquired for at equivalent rates. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Continue neglected and out of the market with no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong continue out of favour with sellers and no sales at \$332½. Chinas have changed hands in small lots at \$98 and \$99, closing with sellers at latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao show a further decline to \$25½ after small sales at \$26. Indo-Chinas have ruled quiet with only small sales at \$61½ and \$61. Douglasses are still obtainable at \$58, but small lots are wanted at that rate. China and Manila, small sales are reported at \$80. China Mutual Preferences have been enquired for, but Ordinaries are obtainable at quotations. Star Ferries have changed hands at \$9.25 and \$9 and close with sellers at latter rate.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled somewhat erratic, with sales at \$164 to \$165 cash, at \$163 to \$163½ for settlements, and at \$171 to \$172 for August 31st. The market closes at \$166 sellers for 30th inst. Luzons continue neglected and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled considerably weaker, with small sales at \$6.75, \$6.50, \$6.25, and \$6, closing quiet at \$6. Balmorals continue on offer at 65 cents and 80 cents without leading to business. Olivers remain quiet with small sales at quotations. Charbonnages unchanged and without business. Jebeus have changed hands at quotation in unimportant lots. Raubs have continued on the boom and shares have changed hands at \$36½ to \$37½, market closing with further buyers at \$37 and no shares offering, whilst a demand forward at better than equivalent rates remains unsatisfied.

LOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled very quiet with a few small parcels on offer at 254 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharves have again been negotiated in fair lots at \$60 and \$61, market closing a little quieter with sellers at the latter rate. Wanchais remain unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands at \$72. Hotels continue quiet and without business at quotation. Humphreys Estates have found small buyers at \$8½. West Points continue on offer at \$20 without leading to business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved with sales of new issue at \$18, \$18½, and \$19, and of old at \$28½, \$29, and \$30. Watsons continue with buyers at \$11½ and no sales or sellers. Other stocks under this heading without business.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	192 ½, prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£4	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$18, sellers
Founders Shares	£1	\$18, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$165
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 100
Hongkong	\$40	\$21, sales
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 106
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 101
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 505
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Dairy Farm Co.	\$8	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$40½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$30, sales & buyers
Do. New Issue	\$5	\$19½, buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$125
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$8½, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$107
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$52, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$6½, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$160, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	254 p. ct. prem.=
Insurances—		\$442½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$187½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$99, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$62, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$332½, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$11, sellers
Union	\$50	\$22½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$134, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$72
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$2½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$41, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$125, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$1.80, sellers
Do. Do.	\$2½	\$3.25, sal. & sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$3.70, buyers
New Balmoral	\$1	65c., sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	60c., sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$14
Do. B.	\$2½	\$4, sales & sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.60, sales
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$37, sales & buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$4.25, sales
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$80, sales & sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£10	£4 12s., buyers
Do. Preference	£10	£5 10s.
Do. Do.	£5	£3
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$25½, sales
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$51, sellers
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$9, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$41
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11.25, sales & b.

J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.

SHANGHAI, 13th June.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—Business has not been so brisk this week, but prices have been well maintained, and improved in some cases. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Rates having improved in Hongkong, shares were placed there at 201 per cent. premium, with exchange 73. The market weakened afterwards, and 200.50 per cent. premium was accepted. This we quote as the closing rate. Bank of China and Japan Ordinary shares are offering. National Bank of China shares are unchanged. Insurance.—No business is reported in either Marine or Fire Insurance shares. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. share, were placed at Tls. 46.50 for June \$48 for July, and Tls. 48.50 for August. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at Tls. 39 and Tls. 40. The market is firm. Mining.—Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling shares are wanted at Tls. 2.50. Punjom Mining shares are offering. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$34 and \$34.50 for the 30th current, and afterwards at \$36 cash, at which shares are wanted. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. changed hands at Tls. 192.50, and are wanted.

S. G. Farnham & Co. shares were sold at Tls. 165 cash, Tls. 170 to Tls. 175 for the 30 current, and Tls. 179 for the 30th September. Cash shares are wanted. Shanghai Dock shares were sold for Tls. 80 both for the end of June and for cash. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares were purchased from Hongkong at 255 per cent. premium. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 117, Tls. 119 and Tls. 120 for cash. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been in demand, and a fair business was done at Tls. 90. The market is firm. Industrial.—Cotton Mills.—Ewo shares were sold at Tls. 100, International shares at Tls. 106 cash, Tls. 110 for September, and Tls. 111 for October. Laou-Kung Mow shares at Tls. 101 cash, Soy Chee shares at Tls. 505, and Yeh Loong shares at Tls. 75. China Flour Mill shares were placed Tls. 56 and Tls. 55. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 79 cash and Tls. 81 for the 31st August. Shanghai-Langkai shares were sold at Tls. 245 and Tls. 250 cash and Tls. 290 for the 31st October. The market is weak with sellers, at probably a concession on quoted rates. Hall & Holtz shares changed hands at \$33, and Central Stores shares at \$10.50.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 13th June (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Our freight market has undergone a change in the shape of a sudden drop in rates to New York. The latter part of last week 32s. 6d. was the loading rate for the next steamer, but upon news being received of the steamer *Benmohr* (once a regular liner) calling here and willing to make contracts at this figure a further drop of 2s. 6d. per ton took place, and as far as we can see there is every probability of a still further reduction. Telegraphic advices stating that from the beginning of July a duty of 10 cents per pound would be levied on all tea imported into America has rather upset the calculations of exporters of that article, and we shall not see anywhere near the quantity go forward as was expected, unless a greater demand sets in. For London there has been no change, up to date there has not been much cargo gone forward, but small lots have come down from Hankow for transhipment. The steamer *Canfa* passed Woosung at 1 o'clock on the 10th instant with a full cargo at 52s. 6d. per ton, a very fine freight list in these times of competition. Coasting is extremely dull and few settlements have been made, while on the other hand several charters have been cancelled. The demand for coal fixtures has considerably fallen off. For New York via Cape.—The *Emily F. Whitney* has received telegrams from the proper authorities to enable her to change flag, so there can be now no hesitation about shipping in her as soon as the necessary papers arrive, which will be about the 20th instant. The *Bohing Suey* is also on the berth and circulating at the same rate, viz., 20s. per ton. They will both leave for Hongkong towards the end of the month. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net, 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by rail, 20s. New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 30s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 32s. 6d. for tea. Boston, 37s. 6d., general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 46s. for tea. Philadelphia, 37s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.70 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.70 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe little doing; Newchwang to Swatow little doing; Newchwang to Canton little doing; Wuhu to Canton little doing.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Java (str.), Adria (str.), Ceylon (str.), Myrmidon (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Benlawers (str.), Chusan str.,
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Astec (str.) Hawthornbank (str.)

Hy. Broomhead, J. H. Toleman, G. Sadler, F. Goodey, and E. Deitg; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. W. W. Kay and Wood; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. T. M. Phillips, J. B. Eames, Mrs. Best and infant, and Mr. J. Osborne; from Brindisi, Mr. McDona, M.P., Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan; from Singapore, Capt. Shepherd.

HONGKONG.

- 11, Lyceemooon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Parramatta, British str., for Europe.
- 11, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 11, Verona, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Great Admiral, Amr. ship, for New York.
- 11, Ebenezzer, German ship, for Singapore.
- 11, St. David, Amr. ship, for New York.
- 11, Tam O'Shanter, Amr. ship, for Baltimore.
- 12, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 12, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Haoui, French str., for Haiphong.
- 12, Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Oceana, German str., for Hamburg.
- 12, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.
- 12, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
- 12, Senta, German str., for Yokohama.
- 12, Terrier, Norw. str., for Vladivostock.
- 12, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
- 13, Macduff, British str., for Kobe.
- 13, Activ, Danish str., for Tamsui.
- 13, Martha, German str., for Kobe.
- 13, Pyrrhus, British str., for London.
- 13, Singan, British str., for Swatow.
- 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 13, Loongmoon, Geruan str., for Canton.
- 14, Pronto, German str., for Touron.
- 14, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
- 14, Taicheng, German str., for Swatow.
- 14, Sikh, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Framnes, Norw. str., for Burmat.
- 14, Progress, German str., for Chefoo.
- 14, Imberhorne, British ship, for S. Francisco.
- 14, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Auping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Chowtai, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Glenlochy, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 14, Letimbro, Italian str., for Singapore.
- 14, Namyong, British str., for Amoy.
- 14, Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
- 14, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
- 15, Airlie, British str., for Australia.
- 15, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
- 15, Foyle, British str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Kwonghoi, British str., for Manila.
- 15, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 15, Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Tamarind, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
- 15, Viudobona, Austrian str., for Kobe.
- 16, Nauchang, British str., for Canton.
- 16, Kanakura Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 16, Henri Mith, British str., for Sumatra.
- 16, Activ, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 16, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
- 16, Ariel Norwegian str., for Canton.
- 16, Chittagong, British str., for Aparri.
- 16, Keongwai, British str., for Bangkok.
- 16, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
- 17, Frøjr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 17, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 17, Canton, British str., for Iloilo.
- 17, Claverhill, British str., for Kobe.
- 17, M. Baquehem, Austrian str., for Trieste.
- 17, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.
- 17, Astrid, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 17, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
- 17, Iaitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Irene, German str., for Kobe.
- 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Prosper, Norw. str., for Moji.
- 17, Sullberg, German str., for Chemulpo.
- 17, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
- 17, Wengko, British str., for Bangkok.

Per Verona, for Hongkong from London, Messrs. J. R. Gibson, C. Lee, and Mrs. Smith; from Gibraltar, Lieut. M. Gomes Castro; from Brindisi, Misses Robins and Millington; from Bombay, Messrs. C. A. Camroodin and A. A. Camroodin, and Miss Hardeen; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Why; from Singapore, Mr. W. D. Groom, Messrs. J. Groves, J. G. Read, Jas. G. Fowler, Wm. J. H. Sinclair, W. H. L. Holden, G. A. Tate, T. Pillard, Capt. R. J. Sanderson, Messrs. Jas. W. Elton, Frank Burns, Alfred Palmer, Joe. Baston, Jos. Williams, Jas. Jackson, Alfred Pier, W. A. Hopkins, T. H. Helling, P. McCarthy, W. J. Williams, Chas. Roberts, A. S. Mestram, Fred. Baker,

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11. Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
11. Fortunas, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
11. yChiven, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
11. Hangchow, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
11. Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.